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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

DOJ finds arrest of 9 Taiwanese unlawful

By Marlon Ramos and DJ Yap

THE ARREST of some of the suspected Taiwanese swindlers, whose deportation to mainland China last month sparked a diplomatic row between Taiwan and the Philippines, was "the limit of a poisonous tree," the Department of Justice (DOJ) has declared.

In clear, separate resolutions dated Feb. 23, prosecution lawyer Gerard Garchitorena ruled that the arrest of nine of the 14 deported Taiwanese was unlawful because the warrant used by the National Bureau of Investigation to search their rented apartments in Makati City was invalid.

Citing this denial and the lack of probable cause, Garchitorena moved to dismiss the criminal cases that the NBI had filed against the Taiwanese

SOLVED DIAMOND, A17

NEWS READER Karina Sanchez with husband Mar Perez Bitanlatad

Binay: The one who cannot be named

By Jerry E. Esplanada

WHAT'S in a name like Jejomar Binay?

In a complaint in the Kapisanan ng Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), Binay's office said it had learned that on at least three broadcasts on ABS-CBN, its news reader Karina Sanchez did not mention Binay's name when she referred to the Vice President.

Sanchez and Ging Peraro, head of ABS-CBN News, have, as of yesterday afternoon, declined comment.

The complaint asked if this was in line with the network's editorial policy and, if not, how Sanchez's situation should be ruled.

BINAY, A17

SIN OF OMISSION: TV Patrol omits Binay's name three times.

Amnesia grips witnesses

MOLLY AFMAD Erlinda Ligot, wife of ex-AFP military comptroller Jacinto Ligot, is escorted out when her blood pressure shot up during the hearing before she could be asked any question about the houses she bought in the States.

Ligot in-law can't explain his ₱255M, says he's no dummy

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

LIGOT: I invoke my right...

'SAMSAM': I don't remember...

THE INQUIRY into military corruption resumed yesterday at the Senate, with the persons summoned to testify beset by forgetfulness and hypertension.

Edgardo Yambao, a brother-in-law of ex-military comptroller Jacinto Ligot and earlier described by senators as a "loyalty man," appeared at the hearing but could not explain how he had amassed at least ₱255 million without a visible means of income.

Yambao's sister Erlinda, Ligot's wife who is now dead as having traveled abroad 92 times from 1993 to 2009, also showed up but was so nervous when it was her turn to be questioned that she was sent to the Senate clinic for medical treatment. Her blood pressure turned out to be highly elevated.

Even Boy Cruzan, a former Armed Forces chief of staff alleged to have benefited from a slush fund for the military base, could not explain two pieces of real estate in Bohol.

AMNESIA, A2

Gas up by ₱1 per liter today, 2nd hike in 4 days

By Amy R. Remo and Norman Bordadora

EFFECTIVE today, prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene will go up by ₱1 a liter, the second increase in just four days and the seventh increase since January, pushing to ₱5.25 the total increase for a liter of gasoline and to ₱5 for a liter of diesel.

The series of increases came as unrest in oil-producing Arab countries persisted and investors rushed to safe havens.

Amid the unrest in North Africa and the Middle East, the Philippine government is

GAS UP, A19

EVACUATION DEADLINE

DFA: 11,045 Filipinos have left Libya

By Philip C. Tubeza

BIGGER for the end game.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said that 11,045 Filipinos had left Libya and that 5,205 of them had arrived in Manila. Most of these evacuees were brought out by their employers (See circular on Page A15).

Acting Foreign Secretary Rosario G. Manalo said Wednesday said that he expected to wind up the evacuation in the violence-torn eastern Libyan coast by tomorrow.

Filipinos who have opted to remain in Libya or those who are far from evacuation centers should stay where they are until bidders drawn at Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi prepare to make his "last stand," Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said.

Baldoz said Del Rosario told a meeting in Malacañang yesterday that crowding by land "in the whole of Libya" was no longer safe as pro-Gadhafi and rebel forces fought pitched battles.

She said the shattered ferry Iemnan Queen was to make a last trip to Tripoli today to pick up at least 700 Filipinos, but this might have to be delayed as pro-Gadhafi forces were reported to hold a huge rally at the port.

"The problem now is that it is very hard to travel in the whole of Libya. By land, it's no longer safe. So, we are telling those who are still in their places to stay where you are. DON'T move. Let the troubles subside first," Baldoz said.

"The Filipinos will have to wait ... because there is going to be a last stand (by Gadhafi). Even to those (areas) that have fallen to protestors, there is an attempt to take them back," she said.

DFA, A14

BREAD OF LIFE Lovie Cagmat holds up the loaf of bread which he said helped him survive his escape from Libya. He was among the 186 Filipino workers who arrived in Manila on Wednesday night from Libya.

Pinoy kin still full of hope; NZ rescuers give up search

WELLINGTON, New Zealand— Families of Filipinos trapped in the quake's rubble could not accept the announcement that there were no more survivors.

Dr. Ethel Uy, sister of nurse Rhea Mae Sotiangco, said the family still believed she is alive.

"There's nothing impossible with God," Uy told the Inquirer.

But rescuers officially gave up hope of finding more survivors of four Zealand's devastating earthquake, saying on Thursday that no one trapped in rubble when the disaster struck nine days earlier could still be alive.

The news was a blow to the families of around 200 people—including Filipinos—listed as missing, many of whom clung to faltering

PINOY, A3

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2-2-7

1 PM	22	10	7	3	2	1	7	8
4 PM	24	23						
7 PM	6	15	3	4	6	20	33	37
10 PM	3	4	1					
1 AM	6	5	2	1	14	24	36	37	41
4 AM	4	9	7					

SIX DIGIT (5 tickets per)

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

House eases impeachment rules

Ombudsman presses graft raps vs Tupas Sr., 5 others

By Kristine L. Alave

TUPAS SR.

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday affirmed the corruption charges against Iloilo First District Rep. Niel Tupas Sr. when it dismissed the latter's plea to overturn a 2010 indictment for violation of anticorruption laws.

In a nine-page decision, the Ombudsman said President Benigno Aquino III's Presidential Management Staff (PMS) denied the motions for reconsideration filed by Tupas and his coaccused—five members of the Metropolitan Iloilo Council of the corruption charges filed against them in connection with the construction of the Iloilo airport.

Motion lacks merit

"Going over the arguments of the parties and the evidence on record, this office is of the view and so holds that the motions for reconsideration of Governor Tupas Sr. and the Metropolitanas lack merit," the PMS said. The decision was approved by Special Prosecutor Wendell Barreras-Sulit.

Tupas Sr. is the father of Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., chair of the House justice committee which is hearing the impeachment complaints against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

Another of Tupas Sr.'s sons, Raul, is married to a daughter of one of the coaccused, Merlinda Montesclaros.

The corruption charges stemmed from Tupas Sr.'s issuance of a permit to erect and seal and guard to Melvin Benguito to be used in the construction of the New Iloilo Airport, despite Benguito's lack of expertise and qualifications, the Ombudsman said.

After receiving the permit, Benguito entered a deal with the Montesclaros to operate the paved crushing plant.

The PMS said the issuance of the permit to Benguito and his subsequent deal with the Montesclaros were anomalous to several ways.

The Ombudsman said the company that runs one of the Benguito-Montesclaros deal did not have complete processing permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

And when he issued the permit, Tupas Sr. knew that his daughter-in-law, Binky April Montesclaros Tupas, and her father were involved in Benguito's project, the Ombudsman said.

Illegal crushing operations

"The PIO adds that assessed is in the best position to know that MIBE [the company] was using Benguito's [rag] [redacted] sand and gravel permit to conduct illegal crushing operations of raw materials extracted from other areas without the necessary national processing permit from the DENR," the decision read.

Tupas Sr.'s relationship with the Montesclaros gave Benguito's company "unwarranted benefits and an undue advantage," the Ombudsman said.

Thus, despite the violations committed by the first, Tupas Sr. "did not lift a finger" [against them], the decision said.

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE HOUSE committee on justice will not be using the strict rules of evidence when it votes on whether there is probable cause to impeach Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez on Tuesday.

"Since this is a political proceeding, not a court, we are not strict on the rules of procedure. We're not asking as lawyers but as political leaders in an impeachment," said Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the committee chair.

Unlike in the impeachment trial in the Senate, which requires a higher appreciation of evidence, all that is needed is for the committee members to agree on whether there was sufficient basis on the charge of betrayal of public trust, said Tupas.

Tupas, who is a lawyer, made a distinction between probable cause as contained in a criminal proceeding and in an impeachment.

"In criminal law, probable cause refers to facts or evidence that would make a reasonable person believe that a crime or wrongdoing has been, is being, or will be committed, he said.

In an impeachment complaint, probable cause means the presence of sufficient basis that the accused might be convicted when he or she stands trial for the offense charged, Tupas said.

This, he said, uses the classical definition of probable cause and was what the committee has adopted.

He said there were the presentation of witnesses in the last hearing was unnecessary since duly sworn affidavits would have sufficed.

As a lawyer, Tupas said he believed that some evidence and witnesses presented in the committee last Wednesday would not be able to stand up in court, but the committee would consider those when they vote on the complaints.

He refused to cite an example, saying he did not want to preempt the voting.

Gutierrez is facing two impeachment complaints. The first cites eight cases, including her alleged tourism on corruption charges against former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Benjamin Abalos in the NBN-ZTE scandal; the dismissal of four cases filed against the husband of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the NBN-ZTE case; inaction on the death of Navy Ensign Philip Pestaño; and the settlement of former House party-list member Rep. Hussin Amin charged at a resident's rally.

The second complaint consists of three main cases: the P728 million alleged fertilizer fund scam, the "euro generals scandal" involving ranking police officials caught in October 2008 at the Brussels airport with large, undeclared sums of money, and the Mega Pacific eSolutions contract with the Comelec which the Supreme Court voided on Jan. 13, 2004.

Tupas said that if Gutierrez likes her pleadings today, the deadline given by the committee for her lawyers to submit it is on Tuesday in order to subscribe to and affirm all the pleadings.

She will then be given time to the morning to present her case and be examined and cross-examined by committee members, which means the voting on probable cause could happen in the afternoon of the same day or in the morning of the next day, Tupas said.

However, if Gutierrez fails to appear on Tuesday, Tupas said the committee would proceed with the voting on the existence of probable cause on each of the two complaints.

GUTIERREZ

Palace elated Heidi willing to rejoin gov't

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG is glad former government auditor Heidi Mendoza has shown an interest in returning to public service.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, however, indicated the administration had yet to decide what job to offer the former Commission on Audit (COA) employee who chose to resign from the service in the military.

"We're glad to know that Heidi Mendoza has evinced an interest in joining the government and [she] would certainly be an addition to our fight against corruption. But we have not sat down with [her] after the last meeting with the President," Lacierda said in a news briefing in Malacañang.

In that meeting, President Aquino had asked Mendoza what post she wanted in the government.

"We will let you know what President Aquino's decision and offer to Heidi Mendoza will be," he said.

Another chance

After repeatedly saying that she was done with working in government following her experience as a COA auditor, Mendoza on Wednesday said that she was willing to give government service another chance.

She said she was even willing to return to the COA.

"If that's really what the President and the people want, I'm willing to go back to the COA," Mendoza said.

Mendoza was the government auditor who went over the books of the military high command, where she found numerous instances of millions of pesos disappearing into the pockets of certain ranking officers.

Specifically, she was assigned to follow the money trail in the plunder case against retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who was originally accused of misusing over P300 million allegedly taken from armed forces of the Philippines funds.

Her investigation uncovered massive corruption involving other officers as well. She resigned from COA when it appeared her superiors were not supportive of her and her findings.

New AFP chief picked

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Aquino has already chosen the next armed forces chief to succeed Lt. Gen. Ricardo David who retires on March 8, according to presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

Lacierda did not reveal the name of Mr. Aquino's choice, saying the President would be making the announcement on Sunday at the Philippine Military Academy graduation rites.

Among those in the running for the top military post are Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jorge Rapsing, Deputy Chief of Staff Eduardo Oban, Army Chief Arturo Ortiz and Air Force Chief Oscar Rabena.

Also in consideration are the army commanders Tan-dayag Bangilisan of the Northern Luzon Command, Roland Detabali, Southern Luzon Command, Ralph Villanueva, Central Command, Juanito Atilano, Western Command and Raymundo Ferrer, Western Mindanao Command.

Mr. Aquino indicated late last month that he would prefer to appoint a chief of staff who would serve a considerable period before retirement.

A soldier has to retire when he reaches the age of 56. Some of the previous AFP chiefs served only a few months because they had reached the mandatory retirement age.

'PERA NG BAYAN'

Private sector tapped vs corruption

By Bernardo Dominguez

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has entered into an agreement with business groups and civil society to encourage citizens' participation in monitoring corruption, tax evasion and corrupt government officials.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima yesterday launched the private sector to build the capacity of individuals to blow the whistle on noncompliance personnel and groups reluctant to fulfill their contributions to the country.

Gathered yesterday for a signing ceremony at the Joyce Avenue branch of Land Bank were officials and representatives of the Makati Business Club (MBC), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Management Association of the Philippines, Coalition Against Corruption, People Power Volunteers for Reform and Reyes Makati Movement.

'Pera ng Bayan' website

Purisima asked the groups to form their officials on the Pera ng Bayan website, which allows concerned citizens to report anomalies and wrongdoing, assuring them of complete confidentiality.

"The challenge for us (signatories of the cooperation agreement) is to agree on action steps and to form a small coordinating group to ensure that what we have agreed on will be realized," Purisima said.

As for the website, the Finance secretary said there were 1,779 reports filed so far since Pera ng Bayan was launched in August 2010.

He said that of the reports filed, just about 40 contained sufficient information or lead that could help build a case. "Of these 40 or so reports, only four resulted to the filing of cases," he said.

Smuggling

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Steel importer

One case involved a steel importer which allegedly brought in P700 million worth of products illicitly.

"Apparently, people generally do not know the type of information that would best help us," Purisima said. "Maybe one of the reminders that we can launch is a seminar that would help citizens be better informants."

MSC Chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. said his group was rolling up a facility that would serve as venue for whistleblowers.

He said it would be linked to the Pera ng Bayan platform.

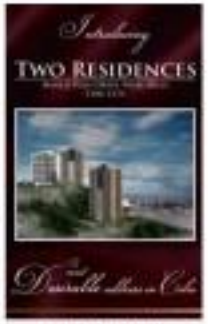
"There is a genuine wisdom to take that beyond mere good intentions, but the government cannot do it alone," Del Rosario said.

Linked to Facebook

The website, encompassing barracuda, is linked to Facebook and Twitter accounts and also enables synchronous through tools to SMS because—no browser technology must allows widespread dissemination of content.

The homepage shows an odd desk, tweet, classroom topic block chalkboard on which a person is leaning and is about to write something.

Visitors to the website are given a choice of filing a report that either expresses praise or a complaint by clicking icons that say "thumb" and "thumbs."



SEE BACK PAGE OF FIRST BUSINESS SECTION

Customs bureau goes after big oil importer

By Nikko Dizon

THE BUREAU of Customs (BOC) recently filed smuggling charges against an officer of one of the world's top oil importing companies after he and allegedly evaded paying nearly P7 million worth of value-added tax (VAT) last year.

Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez identified the respondent as Reuben Tolentino Manaoil, the exports and compliance officer of Filipinas Shell.

Also included in the charge sheet that the BOC filed with the Department of Justice were accomplices, including customs employees.

Alvarez said Filipinas was among the country's top 1,000 companies.

Filipinas operated the petroleum industry in 1993 and became one of the leading distributors or suppliers of fuel and lubricating oil to a number of companies, including Philippine Hoteland Golf Corp. (PHGC).

Flying V is listed as a Filipinas "affiliate," while USA 88 is their gasoline station.

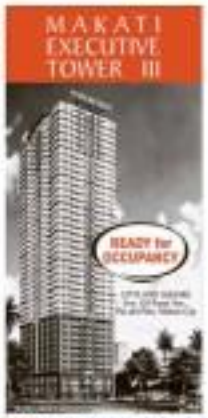
Alvarez said that for violating the terms of its customs accreditation privileges, Filipinas ought to pay not only the unpaid VAT but also the dutiable value of the entire crude oil shipment amounting to P689.95 million since it should have been bubbled in favor of the government.

Filipinas's alleged modus operandi was discovered by the BOC after one of its accredited importers cut both and Intelligence (IMEI) Group.

The customs bureau vowed to implement of VAT worth Rs 9 million.

The company failed to declare around 12,500 barrels of crude oil that had a dutiable value of P97.2 million, said Deputy Customs Commissioner Dargusto Chavez, executive director of the SOC's Port after the Intelligence (IMEI) Group.

The customs bureau vowed to implement of VAT worth Rs 9 million.



PH among 7 countries with increasing AIDS cases

THE PHILIPPINES is one of seven countries in the world with a steadily increasing number of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases, with the new infections involving mostly male sexual through sexual sex, according to a health official.

Dr. Eulogio Tayag, who works with the Department of Health, made the disclosure on Wednesday at the presentation of Ecuador's 2011 State of the World's Children report at the Sofitel Hotel in Quezon City.

Other countries named were Armenia, Bangladesh, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

"Since [2000], there has been a shift from heterosexual contact to males having sex with males," Tayag said.

He further said that for every female infected, four males had been infected through homosexual contact.

He said that 6,415 HIV cases in the country were reported in 2010 of which 5,118 were asymptomatic cases, while 917 were AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases.

At least 6,099 were males and 1,368 were females.

Tayag said 174 new cases were reported in December 2010, representing a 16-percent increase from the number a year earlier, and the highest number of cases reported since 1984. He added that three of those new cases were reported to AIDS patients, and all of them were males, in the age range of 25 years to 29 years.

Interestingly, of the 17,085 cases, 14 were overseas Filipino workers, all of them males.

He said most of the reported cases were from the National Capital Region.

He added that the sources of information for the figures were one-on-one counseling, group counseling, videos, pamphlets, the Internet and seminars.

He said that infections among young people 15 years to 24 years had also increased from 2 cases in 2007 to 2014, from 41 positive cases in 2007 to a high of 169 cases in 2010.

Darryl C. Corvajal

Ochoa: I don't own QC house

EXECUTIVE Secretary Eduardo Ochoa III does not own a new Fairmont mansion in upscale White Plains, Quezon City, neither does he have any thing to do with the property, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said yesterday.

The modern palatial glass and concrete house in the hilland region of Commonwealth was linked to Ochoa by a television news channel.

Lacierda said in a text spoken to Ochoa, who denied owning the mansion.

Lacierda said it was "clear" in the ABS-CBN report that Ochoa was not the registered owner of the property.

ABS-CBN said the owner of several new Ruiz Hills Holdings Inc., whose shareholders included a sister of Ochoa's and three lawyers from the law firm he cofounded. Ochoa's wife Paulyn was listed as a contact person for the construction of the house. Christine Avendaño

Customs police chief dismissed for unexplained wealth

CUSTOMS Commissioner Lito Alvarez said yesterday the Customs bureau has already implemented an order from the Office of the Ombudsman to dismiss Customs police chief Jose Tadeo Jr. from service.

Alvarez said he ordered Tadeo's dismissal last Feb. 21, the last day of the five-day extension given by the Ombudsman for the bureau to comply with the dismissal order.

A career employee of the bureau, Tadeo was found guilty of grave misconduct and dishonesty over his unexplained wealth.

Among his questionable properties were a mansion in a Muntinlupa subdivision, a 7,332-sq. m. farm in Dao, Albay, a property in San Jose, Batangas, and a 32,993-sq. m property also in Dao, Isabela.

Alvarez said he would not be appointing a replacement for Tadeo pending a replacement for Tadeo pending a replacement for Tadeo pending

20 PH sailors coming home

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINE Embassy in Kenya is making arrangements for the repatriation of 29 Filipino seafarers who were released after nearly five months of captivity by somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The seafarers are crew members of the Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel MV Iran, which is owned by the Japanese shipping firm NYK Hinode Line Ltd.

The sailors, released on Feb. 26 by the pirates, "will be repatriated from Nairobi (the Kenyan capital) to Manila," said Foreign Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also DFA spokesperson.

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DOJ finds arrest of nine Taiwanese unlawful

From page A1

and 16 other Chinese nationals.

Gaerlan said that "after a careful examination of the records," he found that "the warrantless arrest of the respondents was illegal considering that the search warrant implemented was null and void from the beginning."

He added: "Neither and so line with the doctrine of 'the fruit of a poisonous tree,' seizure of prohibited articles in a house conducted during a search without a valid search warrant makes them illegally obtained, and, therefore, ... inadmissible in any judicial proceedings."

Simultaneous raids

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had assigned Gaerlan to handle the preliminary investigation of the cases that stemmed from the simultaneous raids conducted by the NBI in Quezon City and the cities of Makati, Pasay and Mandaluyong on Dec. 27, 2010.

The raids were based on a request made by Chinese Embassy officials who claimed that their compatriots were robbed by kidnapping syndicates operating in the country.

Those arrested in Makati were Taiwanese Lin Ta Kuei, Lin Chih Chiang, Wang Chou Hsiang, Sun Ming Po, Liu Gui Sun, Tsou Chi Feng, Cheung Chao Chun, Gong Singlun, Chen Hsiyung and Chiang Gui Sun.

Those arrested in Mandaluyong were Taiwanese Chen Jiaxiang, Li Yuongxing, Dai Yaobin, Li Xiaqbin and Lin Ningchiang, and Chinese Jeng Yeaner, Fu Gang, Feng Zehang, Peng Jiaxing, Liang Jing, Tang Xiao Ping, Ning Mingxin, Wang Jinhi and Hsu Yenher.

ZTE (unidentified teller machine) cards, laptops, printers, cellular phones, telephone and computer cables, routers, adaptors, cables and satellite transceiver were confiscated during the raids.

On Jan. 4, the foreigners were criminally held for estafa and engaging in fraudulent electronic cash transactions in violation of Republic Act No. 8484, or the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998.

They were deported to mainland China on Feb. 2, a move that angered Taipei and prompted it to threaten retaliatory action against some 80,000 Filipinos working in Taiwan and others who planned to work there unless the Philippines apologized.

The Philippine government has refused to do so.

But Gaerlan said the seized electronic devices were not enough to establish that the foreigners had indeed violated the law.

He also said the NBI and the Chinese Embassy did not submit sufficient evidence to bolster the cases "despite the opportunity given" them.

"The facts stated ... stirred immediately be classified to access devices defined under the law since the ... items were ordinary equipment or instruments used for ordinary activities," Gaerlan said.

"Thus, failure to show any proof that these items were used in committing prohibited acts means that there is not enough evidence to establish probable cause against the respondents, since the mere possession of these items is not prohibited by the ... law," he said.

In his review of the documents, Gaerlan noticed that the warrant issued by the Makati court ... was ruled, the commission of the crime noted by the NBI ... is not a violation of the [law]," he said.

'Original sin'

Former President Fidel V. Ramos blamed the Bureau of Immigration (BI) for the diplomatic spat with Taiwan over the deportations of the Taiwanese to the Chinese mainland.

Ramos spoke before leaving for Taiwan, but made it clear he was not an official emissary to Taipei.

He said the BI "committed the original sin" when it did not reconsider the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Court of Appeals on the deportation of the Taiwanese.

"It was the immigration officials of the Philippines who erred. They made the mistake ... They were responsible for starting the chain of events. But they were also responsible in public officials for not respecting the TRO to hold the Taiwanese until the matter would be resolved," he said.

Ramos said reporters the Philippines should have respected the rule of law, but stopped short of saying the government should apologize.

He said there was no need for the Philippines and Taiwan to talk of "hard line" on the matter.

Cluster of brothers

"We are a cluster of brothers and neighbors," he said, at one point invoking the golden rule. "Do unto others what you want others to do unto you."

Ramos also said the Philippines did not need to ape a one China policy because it had economic and cultural ties with Taiwan.

"I am not a special envoy or an official delegation of a mission by President Aquino ... I never got an offer from him and I never offered myself," he said when asked if he would discuss the matter in Taiwan.

Like most countries, the Philippines only recognizes China but maintains trade ties with Taiwan.

China considers Taiwan a renegade province. With a report from Jerome Aning

FVR: This is a private trip

FORMER PRESIDENT Ramos arrived in Taiwan yesterday afternoon for a four-day trip principally to the cities of Taipei and Taichung.

He is leading a 35-member Philippine delegation in a review of business roundtables and networking events with leading Taiwanese companies and business groups under the auspices of the Taiwan Chamber of Small Philippines.

Ramos said he would take up economic and cultural issues with Taiwan business groups, including developments on the Cross-Taiwan Straits Economic Zone, a key component of the blueprint of China's regional economy.

He said but trip bearing an economic agenda was still under the one-China policy.

"The politics is done here in Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs, while we talk about economy, education, culture and flowers. In Taiwan we also talk about economy, education, culture and flowers," he said.

In Taiwan, the government-run Central News Agency (CNA) reported that there would be no meeting between Ramos and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou.

CNA said Ramos would meet with Taiwanese Vice President Vincent Siew instead, but it remained "unclear" if the two would discuss the deportation row between Taiwan and the Philippines.

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Del Rosario defines 3 pillars of foreign policy

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FOREIGN Secretary Albert del Rosario has set out the three pillars of the country's foreign policy: national security, economic diplomacy and the protection and promotion of the welfare of Filipinos abroad.

Del Rosario sought to define the thrust of his tenure as head of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) during the department's turnover rites with outgoing Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo on Tuesday afternoon at the DFA offices in Pasay City.

The DFA's new scope of work allowed to cover the entire spectrum of what Del Rosario explained that it was an "internal country."

On national security, Del Rosario said "the enunciation of frontiers leans Kalayaan would be the bedrock of Philippine foreign policy."

"On economic diplomacy, we will give priority to the directive of President Aquino to address poverty alleviation through pushing for measures that are affordable and sustainable for the OFWs," he said.

As for the protection of Filipinos abroad, he said "we already have a good system compared to other developing countries, especially with the case of Migrant Workers Act."

"But we will continue looking at regulations and bilateral agreements to strengthen the protection of our nationals," he said.

Del Rosario also said the DFA would consider foreign policy suggestions from other sectors.

"We will open up foreign policy by engaging Congress and other sectors involved in crafting the directives of our foreign policy," he said.

Del Rosario, the country's ambassador to the United States from 2000 to 2008, said last week he planned to contact the "best and brightest" for the DFA, "especially since if his bipolar administration] is a cohesive-oriented government."

And "in deference to the professionalism of the folks at the DFA," he said his other efficiency was to "appoint as Vice political appointees as possible."

With poverty alleviation being one of the policy thrusts of Mr. Aquino, Del Rosario stressed this need to "boost our economic diplomacy skills."

"Certainly if we're talking about bilateral trade agreements, I think we should pursue that, provided it's good for us and mutually beneficial in relation to the countries that we're negotiating with," he said.

Del Rosario earlier said that the Philippines "will have to be more engaged" with North Asia," referring to China, Japan and Korea.

He noted that a significant amount of investment as well as tourists coming to the country were from these three Asian countries.

However, the 15-member Del Rosario said the US will remain the Philippines' "sole strategic partner," possibly signaling regarded environmental push back over the US sphere of influence, after years of drift toward China during the previous Arroyo administration.

DPWH urged to increase truck load cap

LOCAL exporters and shippers are asking the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to increase the allowable weight of trucks plying major roads, from the maximum of 41 tons to between 55 and 60 tons.

This was the latest interesting issue for exporters and shippers with regard to the implementation of RA 8794, or the Anti-Overloading Law, according to Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson.

"They asked us to look at the gross weight of containers that are allowed in the ports and then add to that the weight of the trucks and the containers. Under the law, the maximum gross weight of trucks should not be 41 tons. They are asking if we can raise this to 55 to 60 tons. We're still studying this," he told reporters Wednesday.

Exporters and other local shippers earlier raised the possibility of incurring higher transport costs as a result of the implementation of the Anti-Overloading Law, as trucks would have to travel even without a full load just to comply with the weight limit.

In a recent letter to Singson, Philippine Exporters Confederation President Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said the higher trucking and shipping costs would have to be passed on to consumers.

"The implementation of this new law will not only affect domestic business but will also serve as a trade barrier to facilitating the smooth transport of export and import cargoes," he said, adding that shipment delays and traffic congestion could result from the weighing of trucks at the ports, thus negating the purpose of the law.

To prevent traffic congestion and possible cases of smuggling and collusion, Singson said the DPWH is now in the process of acquiring equipment that would allow the weighing of trucks even while these are in motion.

He said this would not only cut the time needed to weigh trucks, but also reduce the extent of human intervention in the weighing process.

He said the new equipment would be used along by mid-2011. Funding for their acquisition will come from the DPWH budget and from the road users' tax.

Singson said investing in the new equipment would still be cheaper than the cost of repairing roads that have been damaged by overloaded trucks.

On Feb. 1, the DPWH started enforcing the maximum allowable load limit of 13.5 tons per axle for trucks. The gross vehicle weight parameter under the Anti-Overloading Law would also be implemented by May 1. This would bar vehicles weighing a total of more than 41 tons from plying the country's roads.

Abigail L. Ha

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30 years

Amnesia grips witnesses in Senate hearing

From page A1

Dy registered in his and his wife's names.

Esmilaw, 53, later claimed that he played the stock market and made extensive business trips abroad from the late 1980s to early 2000. He also admitted to gambling in Las Vegas and to owning a house in and being a permanent resident of Australia.

But he shot down the speculations that Ligot had used him as a front for suspected ill-gotten wealth, saying: "I'll never admit I'm a dummy."

In the end, Esmilaw was told that the issuance of Internal Revenue (BIR) would be directed to charge him with tax evasion.

TWO HEADS BETTER THAN ONE Jacinto Ligot and wife Erlinda appear to be consulting and comforting each other during the Senate hearing on Thursday.

HEAVILY CHALLENGED Former AFP Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu does not quite answer the questions about his pieces of property in his name. Beside him are former AFP chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva and former military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

Ligot's codefendant

The Senate blue ribbon committee is mainly looking into the controversial plea bargain between state prosecutors and Carlos Garcia, Ligot's successor as military comptroller who is charged with plunder in the case of P303 million.

Ligot himself is facing a P181.2 million forfeiture case in the Sandiganbayan. His codefendants are his wife Erlinda, children Paulo, Rikki and Miguel, sister Magnolia Ligot Pangan and Esmilaw.

For almost three hours, Esmilaw sought to distance himself from court records stating he had dollar and peso deposits amounting to P205 million, afterwards claiming he could not remember on invoking his right to privacy.

Confronted with an Anti-Money Laundering Council report that he had peso and dollar accounts in Citibank, Metrobank and United Overseas Bank from 2001 to 2007 amounting to P228 million, he told Sen. Franklin Drilon, the chair of the Senate finance committee: "I can't remember that. That's not mine."

Challenged to secure his rights in the documents in favor of the government, Esmilaw said he did not "want those figures." But he admitted having accounts in the three banks.

Drilon then told him that he had misdeclared deposits of P205 million and "a potential liability of P97 million."

"You stand liable for tax evasion, and we will be asking the BIR to check your accounts and file charges of tax evasion against you," Drilon said.

'Lying through his teeth'

Esmilaw declined to confirm a BIR report that he and his wife failed had no visible means of income and did not file income tax returns (ITRs) from 1993 to 2007.

He said that while they might have failed to file ITRs in that period, he paid a "final tax" out of his savings and profits from joint investments with friends.

Told repeatedly to explain the income tax that had led him to pay the final tax, Esmilaw said a disclosure might incriminate him and his business partners.

Speaking with reporters after the hearing, Drilon said that while Esmilaw did not admit to the wealth, there were sufficient documents to charge him with tax evasion.

"He's lying through his teeth," Drilon said.

Under questioning by Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile, Esmilaw said he invested in stocks before 1999.

But he could not recall his investments other than in Westmont Bank stocks, let alone his total earnings from stock trading. Yet he remembered losing money to actor Michai Chu he casino gambling.

Esmilaw said his family's lucrative foods and trading began as a single proprietorship in 1988 and was later converted into a corporation.

He said the company supplied confectionaries to Rustan's, SM Supermarket and Landmark, among others, from the 1980s until 2000.

But he could not recall the company's volume of sales, and all of the books were burned and their stores "packed" after the business went bankrupt.

Traveling man

Esmilaw noted inconsistencies in Erlinda's claims that he retired in 1999 due to a heart problem, asked a supervisor, whom he could not name, to take over his job, but continued to oversee the family business until 2003.

Esmilaw also claimed to have traveled throughout the United States, and to Europe, Australia and Asia in 1987-2008.

He said that he traveled to Las Vegas, sometimes to gamble, and that in one of his trips, he went on a three-month tour of Australia, visiting Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, on the invitation of a business partner.

In 1993, he said, he traveled to London, Paris, Montecarlo and Brussels, all paid for by a supplier.

"In my recollection, I traveled every year," he said.

After a long pause, Esmilaw said he purchased a house in Melbourne, Australia, then lived, married and traveled there every now and then to visit his wife and child.

He said he bought the house either in 1998, 1999 or 2000, and sold it eight or nine years later.

Esmilaw also said he had been a permanent resident of Australia since 1991. "I'm also a resident of the Philippines," he said.

He admitted to have paid taxes in Australia, and the senators asked him to produce the ITR.

Tense and weepy

Looking tense, Erlinda Esmilaw Ligot arrived at the Senate at 9 a.m. but broke down before Sen. Jinggoy Estrada could pose his first question to her at around noon.

Erlinda had earlier presented documents showing her as having made 42 trips abroad from 1993 to 2009, and as being listed as the owner of three houses in California in the United States.

Tense and weepy, Erlinda "Esmilaw Ligot arrived at the Senate at 9 a.m. but broke down before Sen. Jinggoy Estrada could pose his first question to her at around noon.

Erlinda had earlier presented documents showing her as having made 42 trips abroad from 1993 to 2009, and as being listed as the owner of three houses in California in the United States.

"I'm not feeling well" were Erlinda's first words when it was her turn to be questioned. She began crying moments later, and was excused by the committee and sent to the Senate clinic.

She registered a blood pressure of 180/110 and a heart rate of 120 beats per minute, according to the medical bulletin later issued by the Senate physician, Benaiah Cruz.

Drilon said the patient was given "antihypertensive medication and oxygen inhalation."

"By her vital signs were stabilized to 120/80 and heart rate at 68 bpm, she was then subsequently discharged at around 2:10 p.m.," part of the medical bulletin read.

'Unmarried woman'

Erlinda was to have asked Enrile if Ligot knew about the questionable purchases in the United States and her foreign travels suspected to have been financed by military funds.

In his stead, her husband was alternately questioned by Erlinda and Drilon. But Erlinda said she would be summoned again.

Enrile asked Ligot about the purchase and sale of a house allegedly made by his wife seven years ago.

The senator produced a copy of a grant deed showing an "unmarried woman" named Erlinda T. Ligot granting to an "unmarried" Erlinda Esmilaw the property located at 7702 Bonnie Avenue, Buena Park, California. (In a previous hearing, the senator said Erlinda bought the property in cash for $180,000 in 2002.)

"She bought a house (as) Stanton Avenue, Buena Park on Nov. 5, 2003, and her civil status—and she might answer you, General Ligot—stated that she was unmarried," Estrada told Ligot, adding:

"Why unmarried? Was she ashamed of you?"

The Ligots were married in 1977.

"We were clear in the documents that she bought [a house] then sold it to herself using a different surname," Estrada said.

He later told reporters that the arrangement was meant to conceal the property from Philippine authorities. "Pero ok siguro," he said.

Ligot repeatedly invoked his right against self-incrimination, saying the matters raised by the senators were included in the forfeiture case in the Sandiganbayan.

Exasperated, Estrada later told her, Teofisto Guingona III, the committee chair, that he did not think the senators could "pursue credible answers" from Ligot.

Estrada said he wanted at least one more hearing next week before the committee adjourned for the campaign.

Caught off-guard

In his second appearance at the inquiry Cimatu, near the special envoy to the Middle East, was caught off-guard by Drilon's questions on the two pieces of Iloilo property.

"Somebody had pointed them out to me. I was not aware how these were acquired," he said.

Cimatu said the landowning family of his wife Fe "might have acquired it on their own."

"Trivia when I was a businessman, they had some lands in Antique and Iloilo," he said.

Drilon said one property was registered on June 1997 under the surnames of Ligot Fe Cimatu, and the other, in July 1984 under the name of Fe Cimatu.

To the question of how one ended up in his name, Cimatu replied: "I'll check, your honor, because I've no substantial info on them about their property."

Asked if the two pieces of real estate were his wife's property that were merely registered in his name, he said: "It appears to be so."

He could not say how the property was transferred to his name, and how much it cost. But he said he believed it was listed in his statement of assets and liabilities.

Quoting documents, Drilon said the two lots were mortgaged for P214 million to Queen City Development Bank in Iloilo in 2010, and could be worth over P30 million.

As the case chose seven organized, Cimatu was a major target of the military.

"I'm not aware of all this, your honor. I'll check with them," Cimatu said when asked if he had knowledge of the mortgage.

Pinoy kin still full of hope; NZ rescuers give up search

From page A1

hopes for good news despite more than a week of silence from beneath the piles of debris that still litter the city of Christchurch.

"It is with sadness that the Department of Foreign Affairs learned from the New Zealand civil defense office that there is no more chance at this time of finding survivors," the DFA said in a statement last night.

"We are guided by the pronouncement of local authorities on this matter," said the DFA's spokesperson, Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya. "We are facilitating the submission of dental records, fingerprints and other materials that will hasten the process of the identification of the remains."

The DFA "conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved families on the loss of their loved ones," Malaya said.

'Nothing impossible'

"We've prayed for a miracle from God, it's all up to God," Up told the Associated Press by phone. "If that's Nino's fate, our wish is for her remains to be brought back to us. We want to give her a proper burial."

"No, I can't accept it," said Apolit Manio Austria, younger sister of Esmabelle Austria, who is also missing.

Need to face reality

Flora Mae of Naga City in Cebu and Esmabelle of Binalbagan, Negros, also in Cebu, were among the Filipinos attending an English language review course at King's College in Christchurch, which was on the third floor of the collapsed Canterbury Television (CTV) building.

As of Thursday, the death toll in the earthquake stood at 161.

"We now have the reality that there is no chance anyone could have survived this long," John Hamilton, national secretary of New Zealand's Civil Defense Emergency Management, told a news conference on Thursday.

"Sadly, there comes a point where the response effort shifts in focus from rescue to body recovery," Hamilton said. "We have now reached that point."

Miracles can happen

Maurice Emslimi, whose sister was thought to be inside an office block that collapsed in the quake and who has not been heard from since, said he accepted the official decision but that he had not given up all hope.

"Obviously I would like my sister back with us—in this stage it's not to be," he said. "They've said that miracles can happen, so I'm going along with what they say."

More than 900 workers rushed in disaster rescue and recovery. Flatbed trucks carried dead are dozens of foreigners, most of them students and staff of the English language school within the CTV building.

Memorial service

Prime Minister John Key announced a national memorial service would be held in Christchurch, with the date to be set later.

"Today is a day when we as a nation, along with our many friends around the world, mark with a heavy heart and great sadness the moment of unbearable loss for the many families involved," he said.

Rescuers pulled 93 people from the rubble in the first 24 hours after the quake struck just before 1 p.m. on Feb. 22, but no one has been found alive since.

Officials say many of the missing are among 141 bodies that have been pulled out of the rubble so far.

But only 13 of those bodies have been publicly identified because the extent of injuries suffered by many victims has made the process slow and painstaking, requiring DNA testing or dental records, officials say.

That has left relatives with a small window of possibility that their loved one somehow escaped the quake but has been unable to contact their families or authorities.

Grieving city

"It is a terrible day," Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said. "It has been a tragic event and it has been something that none of us ever hoped or wished or even believed could happen in our city. We mourn with our losers, our city is with each and everyone of you."

Tare Search Independent were the first foreigners named among the dead, as the painstaking work of confirming the identities of names of others gained pace.

Police Supt. Sam Hoyle said 90 of the bodies found so far were pulled from the CTV building, which housed a regional broadcaster and other offices including the language school, which taught students from Japan, China, the Philippines and other nations.

He said police and those responsible for identifying bodies had met victims' families to update why the process was proceeding as slowly, and to inform them of the decision to move to the recovery phase.

DNA testing

Officials said work finally started on Thursday at the collapsed hill tower of Christchurch Cathedral, which used to be heard before rescuers could enter. Up to 22 bodies may be buried in the rubble.

Other parts of the city were slowly returning to normal, though many of the 160,000 residents still have not or limited water and power supplies and are using thousands of portable toilets because of damage to the sewage system.

Malaya told a press briefing on Wednesday that the DFA had "yet to get information" from Christchurch if Filipinos were among the recovered bodies.

"They have recovered many bodies but none is a Filipino," Malaya said.

He also said that "even if they recover a Filipino, the procedure is so massive still be released en because there is still a need for DNA testing."

Reports from AP, Agence France-Presse in Manila, and Jhaemee Magallanes, Inquirer Visayas

CITY BUILDING WRECK This photo released on Wednesday by the Urban Search and Rescue team of New Zealand shows rescue services at work on the Canterbury Television building which housed an English language school attended by Asian students, predominantly from Japan, China and Philippines, more than 400 of whom are presumed dead in its ruins.

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ANOTHER HIKE A man on his bike passes by Lipa's Petron Gasul showing the latest increase in fuel prices. INQUIRER PHOTO

Gadhafi strikes oil areas; Arabs weigh peace plan

BRIGA, LIBYA—Eyewitness Gadhafi's forces struck at oil-related rebel spots in Libya's east for a second day on Thursday as Arab states weighed a plan to end the turmoil that Washington said could ruin the country's "great bounties."

A leader of the uprising against Gadhafi's 41-year-old rule said he would reject any proposal for talks with Gadhafi to end the conflict in the world's 12th largest oil-exporting nation.

Witnesses said a warplane bombed the eastern oil city Ajdabiya for the second day after troops loyal to Gadhafi launched a ground raid on it as they fought to regain control of cities and towns that were suppressed by rebels who have spearheaded a popular revolt against the 68-year-old leader since mid-February.

The rebels, armed with rocket launchers, antiaircraft guns and tanks, called on Wednesday for US-backed air strikes to help overthrow a revolution in Libya's east, Venezuela's information minister said on Wednesday.

Venezuelan officials did not say how Gadhafi had responded to the proposal.

"If Libya endure back to some kind of normality, we could see them drop back to $100," said David Cohen, an economist with Action Economics in Singapore.

Cut in production

The International Energy Agency on Wednesday said that a power struggle between supporters and opponents of Gadhafi had cut up to 1.3 million barrels per day of crude production, more than the group's previous estimate of no more than 700,000 barrels per day.

Traders are also betting that the possibility that political upheaval in other oil-rich countries could crush global crude supplies.

"The spread of protests to other major oil producing nations such as Oman, Algeria and especially Saudi Arabia could have a bullish impact on a bid for some time to come," Rittenhouse and associates said in a report.

Analysts said continued oil prices above $100 would eventually undermine consumer demand and threaten global economic growth.

A DOE report quoted Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy and Economic Research, as saying that if the "most extreme scenario" doesn't unfold from Libya to other important oil-producing countries, oil prices could do the back down."

Conservation

With the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa far from settled, Filipinos may have no choice but to start conserving fuel until they hear the rising fuel prices, Lapeg said.

He said the DOE would be coming up with print advertisements to educate the public on how to conserve fuel. "We need to act, we need to be more efficient," he added.

To help cushion the impact of the latest oil price increases, Lapeg said the DOE would ask oil firms to provide bigger discounts at mass accounts across the country.

He said the DOE would also ask oil firms to stagger price increases.

But what was more important, according to Lapeg, was to remain independent and stable fuel supply in the country.

With a report from AP

Gas up by ₱1 per liter

From page B1

preparing for a possible disruption in the country's fuel supply. Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said.

"We need to be prudent. Let's be ready," Almendras said on Thursday evening, quoting President Aquino's instructions on ensuring a sufficient fuel supply for the country.

Almendras made the announcement following a meeting with the President on the contingency measures of the country which include spare most of its oil requirements.

Rationing

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said the government would move to rationing in a worst-case scenario.

"We are now talking to oil companies on the events are need to initiate fuel supplies. We need to finalize the mechanisms under this oil contingency plan," Layug said.

Once the government sees a sudden reduction in global oil production, at levels which would likely affect supply in the Philippines, the Department of Education (DOE) will "activate" the plan, Layug said.

At present, the national fuel inventory remains healthy at 45 days worth of consumption, he said. The country consumes an average of 300,000 barrels a day.

Two circulars

The DOE has issued two circulars aimed at shoring up the country's fuel supply.

The first circular prohibited only the week, directs oil refineries and bulk suppliers to maintain a minimum inventory of 25 days' supply of petroleum products.

It requires refiners to maintain a minimum inventory equivalent to 30 days' supply, crude oil and refined petroleum products.

The second directive, published on Thursday, "enjoins all oil companies to engage in rational product sharing arrangements and similar industry practices to stabilize oil supply."

Dubai crude

For February, the Asian benchmark Dubai crude averaged more than $100 a barrel from an average of $92.51 a barrel in January, hitting seven-and-a-half high of nearly $103 a barrel on Feb. 24.

Oil prices fell to $101 a barrel on Thursday as the US amid efforts toward a multi-nation conference that could be in Libya, which has cut crude supplies by more than half from the Opec nation.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was down $1.06 at $101.17 a barrel at late afternoon Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract added $3.68 to settle on Wednesday at $102.23, the highest settlement since Sept. 26, 2008.

In London, Brent crude for April delivery was down $1.50 to $114.55 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Mediation

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez has spoken with Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi about creating a bloc of friendly countries to help moderate a resolution to Libya's crisis, Venezuela's information minister said on Wednesday.

Venezuelan officials did not say how Gadhafi had responded to the proposal.

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With a report from AP

40 Pinoy workers finally back home after a week of nonstop traveling

By DJ Yap

FORTY Filipinos returned from Libya yesterday, beaten and tired after almost a week of nonstop travel that took them from an oil field in the Sahara desert to a naval ship in the Mediterranean, two ports in Italy, another in Qatar, and finally to Manila.

At the end of the five-day odyssey, Jessie Dizon, 36, said he was just glad to be home and said Arabing he'd be returning to his family in Lingayen, Pangasinan province.

Carlito Delgado, 48, said his homecomings in Baguio City would be "the best ever." But he would see his newborn son after several months missed.

The group of workers, employed by the Italian construction firm Bonatti, arrived aboard Qatar Airways Flight 648 just before 9 a.m. at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Their group was the last of five more batches of Filipinos that returned home from Libya on Thursday, weeks after repatriation arrangements made by the Philippine government.

The Manila International Airport Authority said 11 had arrived on three flights as of early Thursday afternoon, and two more flights carrying 71 Filipinos were to arrive later in the day. Since Saturday, some 1,625 Filipinos have returned from Libya.

Gloria recalled how his group spent days cooped up in their rooms as armed militias, wearing helmets to hide their faces, roamed their headquarters in Mellaya, stole food in the kitchens, and took their valuables, such as cellular phones and laptop computers, as well as their passports.

After a few days, he said their employer finally called in the Italian military to quell all of its 300 workers, including the Filipinos, out of the closet on board a fleet of buses and mini-vans.

"Our guards were all decked out to kill half the guys ... Pero actually, we did not see them. Iyon, [the convoy] is our rescue," Delgado said.

The workers were taken to the Greek port where they boarded a naval ship that took them to Crotone, Italy.

There were queues outside banks and residents said their prices had gone up, while the street value of the Libyan dinar had fallen dramatically against the dollar.

No-fly zone

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The Arab League said it was against direct outside military intervention, but could endorse a no-fly zone in cooperation with the African Union, Realistically though, only the United States could carry out such an operation. Reuters

GOLIATHS A Filipino worker displays a drawing he and another who both report badly helped his group make it through the hard times in Libya. STORY, PHOTOGRAPHS

DFA: 11,045 Filipinos have left Libya

From page A1

Some 20,000 to 30,000 Filipinos were in Libya before the uprising broke out in mid-February.

"What we are seeing is that we have accumulated big numbers of workers who are already out of Libya and they are in evacuation sites in neighboring countries," Baldoz said, adding that 3,000 more expected to arrive by the weekend.

Ferry diverted

The Superstar Queen had earlier diverted from Benghazi, Island of Crete 1,200 Filipinos from Bengkulu. Instead of going back to Benghazi, the ferry was diverted to Tripoli to pick up 700 Filipinos in a rebellion-torn city and then ordered back.

"That's how rough for a delay when it drops on Friday to load passengers because it seems there is going to be a huge demonstration by pro-Gadhafi forces at the port area," she added.

Baldoz said the government was making available to the nationals the P1 billion emergency Fund for returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) while the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) has set aside P300 million.

She said the P100 million Owwa fund for the P10,000 "one-time cash grant" that would be given to each returning OFW from Libya "whether they're documented or not."

"There is also a P50,000 'cash station kit' that the children of OFWs could use to buy tools if they want to be electricians, hair stylists, or go into some processing. In effect, they could have a total of P160,000 as immediate capital," Baldoz said.

Loans

The labor secretary also said the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines were also prepared to lose the interests on loans that displaced workers would have to pay.

Baldoz said the government is also considering the possibility of deploying Filipino workers to Libya in the future.

"We will enter a bilateral accord and thousands and thousands of Libyans will die if the feared Scuds comes or Wmd comes," Gadhafi told Tripoli supporters in a speech broadcast on state television.

"We are ready to hand out weapons to a million, or 2 million or 3 million, and another Vietnam will begin, "he added.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Washington that the Reagan US forces "Libya descending into chaos and becoming another Somalia."

The Libyan government has tried to persuade people in Tripoli that life continues in normal, but day rerun was affecting everyday life.

There were queues outside banks and residents said their prices had gone up, while the street value of the Libyan dinar had fallen dramatically against the dollar.

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Libya's oil areas

Libya's oil areas are in the east and south of the country, with the capital Tripoli in the northwest. Oil production has been disrupted by the unrest.

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'FALSE PERCEPTION'

Corruption in PH not so bad, says UK exec

MANY people have a "false perception" of the Philippines when it comes to corruption, according to a visiting official of the United Kingdom's Department for Business Innovation and Skills (DBIS).

Nicholas van Beuzekom, head of the DBIS' trading group on Embassy, noted that the Philippines "does not have the best ranking" in transparency International-Philippines' annual corruption perception index.

"But then again, there are other countries that don't have a good ranking but you can still do business [with them] fairly," he said.

Briefing diplomatic reporters on Tuesday, Van Beuzekom said he was in the Philippines to "find out both what the problems are and solve the problems."

"Our people in the business community think very enthusiastically about (Philippine) Aquino's] focus on anti-corruption issues) and that's promising," he said.

He also cited the "human legal framework" and the government's efforts in "getting back billions it (Ferdinand Marcos regime looted."

"You've got quite a few institutions showing political will. (But) there may be more that can be done. The question is follow-through and challenges in the implementation of (anti-corruption laws)," he said.

According to Van Beuzekom, "other countries have not gone as far as taking up the challenge as the Philippines."

Asked his initial assessment of the local business environment, Vanbeuzekom said it was "based obviously on the Transparency International (TI) survey and World Bank study (on the Philippines)."

The country fared poorly in TI's latest annual Corruption Perception Index ranking 134th among 178 countries surveyed.

But Van Beuzekom believes "there's a strong legal environment against corruption here. There doesn't seem to be lack of regulation. The law here is quite mature. It's a good sign. Everyone to be more on the straight and white-flowing. Freedom of information and the challenge I think is in enforcement and implementation of the laws."

Van Beuzekom stressed that "UK government policy is to support trade, and we want our companies to know how much work has been done in the Philippines to combat corruption."

Between 1999 and 2009, UK investment in the Philippines reached 9.7 billion pounds, 930 million pounds of which were in foreign direct investment.

From January to October 2010, UK exports to the Philippines amounted to 262 million pounds, a 14 percent increase over 2009. Jerry E. Esplanada

Correction

IN THE FEB. 27 ISSUE, an article on Page C4 of the Sunday Lifestyle section...."Treasured friends were Tito, Friendship Festival"—misspelled the surname of one of the guests as Sahres Cantabelo's birthday celebration. Her name is Sahry Tantoco...not Tantoco. The news stumbles opposed to press can satisfies.

. . .

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors or of bias to the Ombudsman, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-ave. Street, Makati City, Fax No. 897-47-09, e-mail address: ombud@inquirer.com.ph

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

[illegible]

Psalter Week 4

Tuesday of 4th Week in Ordinary Time

Ps 149: 1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

The Lord takes delight in his people.

1st Reading **Sir 44: 1, 9-13**

Let us now glorify illustrious men, the ancestors of our people. Others are not remembered and have disappeared as if they never existed. It is the same for their children. But men renowned for godly acts whose good deeds have not been forgotten. Those who came after them benefited from the rich legacy they left, their own treasured bulkhead to the covenants. Their children [illegible] their example. Their family will endure forever and never will its glory be cut behind.

Gospel **Mk 11: 11-26**

When Jesus and the apostles were leaving Bethany he felt hungry. In the distance he noticed a fig tree covered with leaves, so he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. Then Jesus said to the fig tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit!" And his disciples heard these words.

When they reached Jerusalem, Jesus went into the Temple and began to drive away all the people he saw buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the stools of those who sold pigeons. And he would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple area. Jesus then taught the people, "Does not God say in the Scriptures: My house will be called a House of Prayer for all the nations? But you have turned it into a den of thieves."

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, and they tried to find a way to destroy him. They were afraid of him because all the people were captivated by his teaching. When evening came, Jesus left the city. Early next morning, as they walked along the road, the disciples saw the fig tree withered to its roots. Peter then said to him, "Master, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

And Jesus replied, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, if you say to this mountain, 'Go up and throw yourself into the sea,' and have no doubt in your heart but believe that what you say will happen, it will be done for you. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it shall be done for you. And whenever you stand to pray, forgive whatever you may hold against anyone, so that your heavenly Father may also forgive your sins."

Reflection

[illegible]

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OPINION

Real option

EDITORIAL

WE HAVE joined our voice to those of others calling for the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. But we see the point in Sen. Francis Pangilinan's recent proposal, and agree that Gutierrez can spare all of us the trouble, by tendering her resignation.

Resignation is a real option. And it is based on the same principle that underpins the plea bargain agreement Gutierrez herself wants unusually kind of. It carries the greater public interest by allowing the government to save scarce resources, including time and legal capital. The difference, of course, between the plea bargain agreement that Gutierrez struck with suspected plunderer Carlos P. Garcia and the option of immediate resignation is that the first was done precisely to skirt justice, while the second is meant to certify it.

Gutierrez and her defenders, especially the spoiled brats of the new minority like the insufferable Rep. Mark Cojuangco, will argue that surely the controversial ombudsman has the right to be heard, and to defend herself in the proper forum. They would of course be right—except that Gutierrez has consistently followed a pattern of avoiding accountability for as long as politically possible, even at one point suggesting that she could not possibly deign to explain herself to lowly congressmen. Even today Gutierrez enjoys the freedom to fully account for her alleged misdeeds or to be more precise, for her misdeeds to be matched to the appropriate action in the theme that fuels the impeachment complaints against her). Instead, she has come to depend mainly on an extraordinarily partial understanding of the rules of court. She willingly, happily, accepts the protection offered her by the Supreme Court's interlocutory (and therefore immediately executory) order to respect the status quo ante, but pretends to misunderstand the immediate impact of another interlocutory order lifting it.

Judging from her previous record, there is no guarantee that Gutierrez will see an impeachment trial in the Senate is finally hold herself accountable according to strict, not pliable, standards.

She can, of course, choose to fight it out in the Senate and defend her own record and reputation, in the event she becomes only the second public official to be impeached in the House of Representatives. That is her right.

But she has no right to drag the entire Office of the Ombudsman, or even the Supreme Court she still evidently sees as an ally, into the muck with her.

Consider the cases included in the two impeachment complaints filed against her. All it would take for the House to impeach her, and the Senate to convict her, is to verify the already established case record. In other words, the record will speak for itself.

Since assuming office, the ombudsman has failed to file any case whatsoever against former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo and Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, implicated in the so-called fertilizer scam of 2004. Despite plunder cases filed years ago by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez against military comptroller Garcia and Jocelyn Lapid, land budget-officer-turned-whistleblower George Rabusa, the ombudsman has failed to take any action. In the Mega Pacific contract fraud committee by both the Supreme Court and the Senate blue ribbon committee, the ombudsman not only disregarded the findings of her own field investigators; she created the perfect crime: an obvious case already without any perpetrators.

The list of deadening inaction goes on, and they can be verified using data from the Office of the Ombudsman itself. Even the seemingly positive, even assertive, statistics emanating from Gutierrez's office turn out to be deceptive. Between her assumption of office and December 2009, the Office of the Ombudsman won a total of 123 convictions. On examination, however, the "record" turns out to consist of the following: 223 convictions of "corruption" against one lone municipal mayor, plus two convictions against two other mayors.

This is the record Gutierrez wants to defend?

It is true that an impeachment trial in the Senate will help bring out the direct detail of Gutierrez's record of inaction, tantamount to a shocking betrayal of public trust. Exposure might then prevent similar non-deeds from being perpetrated again. But the trial will also delay the most important next step: Appointing a new ombudsman, who will focus on fighting corruption, not a one-guard action-to-defend a sorry record and a corrupt reputation.

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Postpone or go ahead with ARMM polls?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REQUIESTS of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are not an uncommon occurrence. The request of Datukan Agakan to postpone the elections there scheduled in August. Already a bill (HB 4646) has been filed in the House of Representatives to authorize the postponement.

What are Muslim Mindanao's reasons for seeking a postponement? One is that it wants the entire ARMM elections to be synchronized with the national and local elections in 2013 and, perhaps, save a little money, of which we see in these supply. The ARMM is a "federal region," and a "federal relations," says the Palace.

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo believes that postponing the elections will open a "golden opportunity" for the national government to choose the regional voters' lists and to audit the financial status of all the region's local government units. He also argues that the elections would not violate any law as it is a congressional act.

President Benigno Simeon Aquino has said he and the Palace is considering three options: (1) appoint officers to head the ARMM, (2) reactivate the expired ARMM law as a holdover measure; and (3) push through with the elections with the elected officials having shorter terms.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima says Malacañang has a legal basis to appoint caretaker officials in the ARMM.

But Rep. Bai Sandra Sema says that running the elections would deliver the government a more democratized outcome to create the impression that the ARMM is the shining capital of the Philippines.

Brothers Zain Abbas of Basilan and Malapakdar Tan of Sulu favor postponement, but Tan opposes the idea of allowing the incumbent officials to serve in a holdover capacity. He suggests that all elective positions in the ARMM be filled up with appointees. Abbas wants the region to focus on its economic development, believes the needed socio-economic development, basic health and education services in the less prosperous and neglected parts of the region.

There are so many people and organizations opposed to postponement, however. Here are some of them:

1. The national government should respect democratic processes and abide by the provisions of the ARMM Organic Act. The postponement of the polls and the appointment of OICs to replace the functions of the ARMM officials elected in 2008 are no doubt grossly undemocratic.

2. The law is very clear. The elections should take place every three years and the progression to constitutional status for very specific and clear reasons, such as natural disasters, general breakdown in peace and order and the like. The law also provides that those currently occupying elective positions should not use "holdover" capacity as until their successors are duly elected. There is absolutely no necessity the appointment of OICs even if done by the President himself in the interest of "general peace of supervision" or acting in his office since the elections do not include the positions to be occupied by OICs.

3. The continued intervention of national politicians in ARMM affairs indicates an inconsistency towards regional autonomy.

4. Apart from the constitutional violations, there are no cogent reasons for postponement. The reasons for the postponement are flimsy and it is "truly selfish and false" to hold the election. The 2013 budget includes an appropriation for holding the elections.

5. The terrible price indicates intention in the ARMM elections. Postponement is the remedy for the Comelec and its citizens arm, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, have noted, the 2010 elections was one of the most "peaceful and cleanest" elections in recent memory. Nursery Aquino was in the ARMM previous despite the fact that he did not have a single vote and made no campaign sorties in the region. The latest homicide polls were also held peacefully.

6. The latest argument for holding the elections as scheduled in August is the need to replace the 66 percent of incumbent ARMM officials who are relatives and cronies of the Aquinaldo clan.

7. The postponement of the polls to May 2013 and appointment of OICs would create chaos and weaken the autonomy of the ARMM. It would bring more instability in the region and deny the Muslim people their right to self-determination. It would also violate the constitution the autonomy of the ARMM. The government should instead focus on ensuring clean and peaceful elections.

8. Here are other reasons Muslim leaders said on the issue: Deputy Speaker Cesario Pimentel: The reasons advanced for postponement are flimsy. There's no need to sacrifice the elections just to conduct a financial audit. The Commission on Audit is supposed to be auditing the ARMM each year. The Comelec should undertake a special registration of voters in the region instead of purging the existing voters' list. The appointment of OICs is not a power vested in the President by the ARMM charter as it would be tantamount to the takeover of the autonomous government.

9. Sen. Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao, who was in a Brazilian of Muslim leaders in Diamond Hotel: "Postponing the May 8 polls would require an amendment to the ARMM Organic Act, which is the fundamental law that only the Congress can amend. Only a majority of all members of Congress can amend, alter or repeal the region's organic act."

10. Sultan Jamal Lucong, chair of the commission on Muslim affairs, who was also in the Kapihan sa Diamond: "Maintaining the old election period will only serve to further weaken the region's political system. Some vice Mayors and members of the regional assembly have also shared the fear that they will be replaced by appointees."

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Condoms by doctor's prescription

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

RA 10354 or the Reproductive Health Act of 2012 is now in force against reproductive health but is mainly done the pro-RH advocates a big setback.

Before, from a constitutional law standpoint, the pro-RH lobby had a dual burden. One, they had to establish that reproductive liberty is part of the "penumbra of rights of privacy and zones of freedom" that the Bill of Rights encloses. Our "right to be let alone" extends to the marital bedroom. And two, they had to explain that the principle of "social justice" calls on government to provide that poor Filipinos have access to reproductive information and services. Since family planning services are the only way they will never be found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood." In effect, they had to overcome the Catholic majority's desire to impose their religious dogma.

With the help of the Aquino-Abalos bureaucracy, pro-RH groups are ushered from their second burden. He saved for the second reason reminder. The Aquino-Abalos are not saved their members. Indeed, if you speak of reproductive justice, there's the pain on much richer than poor.

Both their help, we can briefly discuss reproductive rights solely as a private issue. In other words, the right to reproductive health is entrusted to us, as voters' practice, a personal decision when we can debate the core issue of reproductive choice in its purest form. Contrast this with the RH bill pending in Congress. We have the legislative agenda to "help" the Catholic Church money be used to pay for poor people's condoms? With the alarming unfairness, that argument is abandoned at first for now. The alarming couples will presumably buy condoms with their own money via their own taxes. Its use to their own natural fashioning—and every day, Attorney's Protection of the Unborn Child Ordinance of 2011 would dictate.

The alarming ordinance is dubbed in many ways. The *barangay* council arrogates unto itself a power that belongs to Congress and to expert agencies in the Executive Branch. It is fundamental that local government units possess only the delegated powers to enact law. This delegation was made by Congress under the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160). Law is always interpreted by the highest court to conform as much as to specialized agencies of government. The ordinance already defines "abortion to mean," yet does abortion is still pending before Congress (under pro-RH bill) and is excluded from the definition. Or have any time now. Worse, its list of abortifacients includes drugs and devices already certified as safe by the Department of Health, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (No. 2011) and the World Health Organization.

Moreover, the *barangay* council purports to rely on implement a clause in the Ordinance has RA 9262, 10605 that mandates to buy "voluntary and devices . . . capable of providing access to reproductive health services." You need a medical prescription and for our nurses to "dispense regular book for abortions and not contraceptives."

But now let me put down on the arguments that I am using a total prohibition, as indeed the ordinance calls it a "regulated sex." That is bad enough. In other words, whereas before you could simply buy your condom at the cashier while pretending to buy Aunty Pearl gum, now the alarming ordinance would have you register your name for all to see what kind of condom you prefer and how many you need, on every week. Unless the government can demonstrate some compelling interest in knowing what goes on in the marital bedroom—and I cannot for the life of me imagine what that interest can be, other than reproduction—this requirement amounts to refusal to afford an "unclear freedom" on the exercise of a liberty. In other words, state sex not only unconstitutional (*Stanley v. Georgia*), it is extremely embarrassing for you to do so.

That is why the US Supreme Court has treated the issue as the protection not of sexual liberty but of the privacy of married couples. Thus, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, also cited in Bill of Rights, . . . Marriage is a coming together for better or for worse, hopefully enduring, and intimate to the degree of being sacred. It is an association that promotes a way of life, not causes; a harmony in living, not political faiths; a bilateral loyalty, not commercial or social projects."

The Alabang ordinance must be promptly challenged by a commissioner to the "family of Solo" and the "commissioner of Solo." The ordinance does very summary by installing into the intimate relations between husband and wife, "If the right of privacy means anything, [it means that we should] be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child."

* * *

This week, Friday, March 11, 2:45 p.m., I will deliver the Saint Constantine Lecture for the UP College of Law on the topic "The Spirit and the Law: Secular and Explicit Religiosity in the Philippines." Randy David of UP's Sociology Department and fellow Inquirer columnist, Fr. Rodolfo Aquino of the Ateneo de Manila School of Law and professor Owen Bacon of the College of Social Work and Community Development will be the discussants. Our Church-and-State issues driven heavily from American constitutional document, which mandates that life of the state be the sphere of privacy. Historically in the Philippines, however, faith has always been in the public sphere, either as an instrument of colonization, of justification, of state-making, or of liberation. What gives? The public is interested.

Comments to pangalangan@gmail.com

Betrayal by insiders and regime collapse

Anonymous

FORTIS LUNA to CLL. Mummius Gadhafi are locked in a fierce fatwah with exiled tycoon. An elite contingent of Tim's Blacks, all of empire command, 3000 kilometers east of Tripoli, undressing in the dewy mountains are to be supplied in the same way Israel, or Egypt and Tunisia crumbled after their corrupted leaders fled.

The battle for Fort Bingo is shaping up to be a critical turning point in the two-week uprising against Gadhafi's 41-year dictatorship. Rebel forces reported on Wednesday a counter-offensive by regime loyalists in the city of Zawiya, spearheaded by a tribesman of the same name as Gadhafi's infamous wife pastor. Fort Bingo is a key oil facility and those on an hybrid that sets value by rebel forces has month and a network of misguided intelligence and economic analysis of Libya, controlled by the army administration, the National Libyan Council, set up by senior officials and army units that had defected from the Gadhafi regime.

His speech could not be broadcast live because it was backed by an power. So important was the post to Gadhafi that he was said to ensured television, that "we will carry a bloody war and thousands and thousands of Libyans will die if the United States or NATO attacks." He added: "We will not accept even an invasion as a million, or two million or three million, and another Vietnam will begin."

Some Middle East experts have raised questions about when military loyalty in the regime or the decisive factor in the outcome of the revolution. The issue is relevant to the 1991 Bright Street functioning in the Philippines, where a revolt by a minor segment of the Armed Forces provoked the people that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 20-plus group.

In an article that was published on Feb. 14 by BBC News, Dr. Mark Almond, a visiting professor at international studies at Oxford University, argued that Gadhafi's military could be divided and crushed. Remember Tiananmen Square. But if soldiers and the navy took guns began to question the orders of backings regimes—as can be seen in Libya—it is a different story.

"Gadhafi can't be defeated by Libyan because with just him they would see these into the streets, in Benghazi, in December 1989, Germans tried to use the power by failed to re-crush the protesters because they called judge in his and in Chairman City.

"The United States has repeatedly pressed in authoritarian allies to compromise and then, once they counted on their slippery slope, to escape. Mr. Almond also noted that her penchant for backing so-last Catholic fault to explain her democratization to shed light on the management issue provided a non-Catholic opponent to divide her. "But I explained that I keep mentioning my Catholic confessor never at anyone appears to see her fellow Catholics, who do not promote their faith while in public service. We need everyone to point to other light and conquer darkness."

ANALYSIS

Amanda Dawnda

FORMER DIPLOMAT: Jose de Venecia has written Libyan interpreter Col. Mummmar Gadhafi to request his removal about the reason his relations in the country's democracy, according to the dipping in and handing his country into civil war as a result of spreading protests.

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"I must call you that a good number of the directors committee resigning from the foundation because of the horrific violence that the media report as taking place in your country," wrote the former diplomat.

De Venecia held out the possibility of a peaceful end to the political impasse in Libya which would at the same time give Gadhafi a graceful way out. "Is it not time to put him in the dot" the creation of an "interim, transition government of national reduction," which would offer the "Tripoli leadership, its urban supporters, and the rebel forces in the East a unified negotiating a political framework for setting about and conducting elections."

It's a long shot, given that Gadhafi and his sons have shown no appetite for compromise or flight "to the last man or woman in Libya" as way to protect and bring an end to the protests. Still, it's a often-repeating being offered in the Libyan capital, where the rebels in the East have yet to take control as it does not just from a personal acquaintance, but someone who holds from "the first developing country to superhero people power."

Chans Gerry

IT'S TRANSITION time at the University of the Philippines, with a new president, Alfredo E. Pascual, taking office in late may after Dr. Emerlinda Roman, Lim Wednesday, at the flagship Diliman campus. Dr. Cayetano Paderanga, the Sergeant Major.

Nobody is a highly respected physician, a walk-to-wall UP product from his bachelor's degree to his PhD, to dean of the College of Business, he was able to build the sprawling National Science Complex.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

But today's an with Pascual's term when I wanted to write about the previous UP Diliman chancellor, "Chans Gerry" to colleagues. I do this as a personal way of thanking him, as well as a reflection on positive leadership. Pilipinas-wide.

For most of Chans Gerry's six years in office, my interactions were mainly on his chancellor. He dean of the student-college deputy dean, and I had to write him more often in those days through channels, meaning through the dean and his vice chancellor.

But I did have a least of how he paid attention to detail when he is needed me once, after the business published an angry letter from a reader complaining about the use of the word Second Avenue 2 in Exploring Gender and Sexuality. The "controversy" quickly died once the student-backstabs false claims, but I was at talk by the chancellor's visiting nine to check on a situation, which was deadly unnecessary for concern as well.

Late August, after a breathtaking nine years as department chair, I was encouraged to become a college dean, which means more direct communications with the chancellor.

In the weekly meetings, the chancellor informed the new deans that we were going to have to amend an executive workshop. I measured the idea of an orientation and it was organizing several speakers to explain financial workings around me, we did get a thick folder with all kinds of documents to guide us through UP's bureaucratic maze, but the chancellor himself handled the orientation, sharing many of his personal experiences to explain how we could tackle the many challenges we would be facing.

One simple message kept recurring throughout our orientation and this was to approach him if we had problems or needs. "Ask, and you shall receive," he said half in jest. This was when I began to understand why people were calling him Chans Gerry, reflecting a combination of the formal and informal in his leadership.

Singing Chancellor

Shortly after that workshop, I got another invitation, this time to a concert for his 50th (or was it, ninth, the 49th?) birthday. All this was again on Filipino, much like a his dukay celebration, except the friends in attendance, except of course that this gathers who to touch, much higher.

I wasn't aware that Chans Gerry was a karaoke, and also he had come to be known as the "Singing Chancellor" because of many ceremonial functions, he would deliver a speech—and sing a song. He would also do encores to help raise funds for scholarships.

Judging the manuscript of this dear academic, our Singing Chancellor also had an amazing sense of humor, made the most charming because his jokes often involved a bit of self-deprecation, as his birthday concert he brought the house down with a song that he had written himself, complete with guitar accompaniment. It's typically super-corny, the sort that guided a private wedding anniversary ahead and Chans Gerry pre-caused it was the usual sentiments prepare his, in front of a large audience, he told the official the gift was a replica of the Filipino's most common mode of transportation. The official opened the gift. It was a carved carabao.

There were other similar anecdotes he takes funds, all of which I saw as Chans Gerry's way of moving away from a passenger system, i.e., local unit having to be "loyal" to a person—one of the reasons for the "cacique" culture.

Knowing that our colleagues were dependent on a fixed annual scale, he instituted other perks such as special rounds for employee service. He set up a health care annual clinic for faculty and medical needs, and was able to negotiate additional discounts, now reaching 30 percent, for hospitalization at the Philippine General Hospital. In addition, he instituted a fund for faculty and staff to attend conferences and workshops—to a maximum of P100,000. The honorariums fund was eventually adopted by other UP campuses.

Chans Gerry was understandably proud of these extra benefits but he was also cautious, knowing how quickly entitlements could turn into liabilities. He was also careful to avoid the "dole-out" mentality, which he saw as a threat to the long-term sustainability of the university.

Compassion

Chans Gerry had a no-nonsense outlook to work, which was sometimes interpreted as stubbornness. He could be driven, even brutally frank, but I also often saw a compassionate side, which could be interpreted as weakness. For example, when we were discussing some particularly faculty member's behavior, he quietly advised me, "With people like this, I always try to understand where they're coming from."

Expansionist was the word that kept coming to my mind when I reminded him of our meetings, whether of the dean, or of the chancellor's cabinet. He was always looking for additional faculty members. Professors can be so arrogant to such those were many times when Chans Gerry would handle the retired University visitor salary, only a slight power in his waist because the process be very boring. I wondered at times if he'd get home and become one his interventions, from one or the of course.

The last few months he had to deal with his mother's serious illness, and her death in December. Again, he presented expressions and poise under pressure. In more private moments, he would tell me how much he had inherited from. As one of our college affairs, a tribute for a deceased faculty member, there was a point that rendered tears come out my eyes. He stared at me intently and said, "Mapapaiyak ako." I knew the songs had brought back memories of his mother.

As we left the chancellor's office for the last time, Chans Gerry seemed to me that we had to be ready to enter home-care work, to wake up in the middle of the night because of some unsolved problems. He could have added. Be ready as well, as he reminded us the middle of your work, of the personal, of family-related demands.

Over most I have learned that people in high positions sometimes end up "loving" their work mainly because of the power that they get to wield. With Chans Gerry, I am totally convinced he was motivated, even driven, in his work because of love for UP and, more importantly, a love of people and a love of country.

• • •

Email: mtee@inquirer.com.ph

Light, truth and Gadhafi

AT LARGE

Krista Lawrence Garcia

IT WAS a more moving night. Tinsel-yellow Brad Mondoza and retired Lt. Col. George Rabusa in their candles from the frame of the let go candle in front of the altar, then went down the steps and let the candles of Mass quiet on the front row. Ten by ten, candles went in, many who came to the Vow in the Arena Campus, filling the darkened church with candle light not often seen, while Mass-goers clamored to hold their candles up high, as if in protest.

The theme of that day's Mass was "Your Word is the Light," meant to counteract the end of the then-life of Mount Isarog on the majestic Bicol region, and the start of the Lenten season. But there was much more on the minds of those who gathered in the church that day.

Those were the unforgettable, plus forgotten days of February 1986 at the Ateneo de Naga University and Dayanad AIP campus the Cadet Corps expending the millions he had allegedly siphoned from the military's coffers. The people on the plaza had toppled Marcos in the "People Power" revolt, the deepest mass mindfulness campaign Filipinos have witness in this case, leaving four dead supporters on two fields meant for military use were transformed to possible recreation and recorded. Mondoza, who was then studying in Ateneo, shared his memories of those days, which marked his generation.

Indeed, memories are meant to be gathering in the ashes of the past, to help us remember (from the Latin *re-memorari*, to call to mind) and (from the Greek *anamnesis*, to recollect). The threatened rapprochement of Quezon City would seriously pave the way for unjustified and deteriorated environment by the body's ecological and the Commission to pay other problem in preservation.

But even Duterte's recent man he regularly invented by race by the appointment of a replacement for Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, who is on one hand of the Office of the Ombudsman, happening with the prosecutors who were complicit in the questionable lawsuit filed against, and is reportedly being groomed for a different campaign run for Senate in 2013, although Gutierrez denies, beginning with the Commission on Audit.

• • •

"PEOPLE ARE calling me the leaders' Ate

Innocent abroad

LOOKING BACK

Anchoreta N. Dionisio

ON JUNE 19 we will celebrate Rizal's 150th birthday. To prepare for a number of events and speaking engagements, I have been re-reading his letters. To get to know Rizal, you have to read his own writings. It is unfortunate, however, that our National Hero never a lot for a woman close their and soul.

Because a multi-volume correspondence. 914 known letters on hanged between him and others, arranged by recipient. We have a volume of letters to his family, a thick volume of letters to his colleagues in the Propaganda Movement, two volumes of letters to his friend Ferdinand Blumentritt, and a slim volume called "Miscellaneous Letters" to people who could not be classified in the other volumes. All the love letters exchanged with the women in his life are in "Miscellaneous."

It's a pleasure to read Rizal's letters to spain, to episodic who communicate (as still is abbreviate of some messages. Read's letters can be very long. When not, unless everything was written long-hand, you cannot help but marvel at the texts of people in the past and at the time he didn't develop Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

His letters to his family in 1882 are particularly that using because we see a Filipino on his first way abroad. He may have taken a boat rather than a plane, but the experience is the same. From the time he left the country, he missed, and found it at the long journey he wrote:

"The following day, at dawn, Noypli (Baptista appointed to us, a gigantic city that has acting by side Shanghai, a volume that seems to be paired up since a mountain and the other extreme, all populated, would be the same as from the town of Colombo and beyond. Los Baños. In late elegant address, like the Grand Palace, rice fields or Sometimes and in. Within, numerous hotels, the Town of Singapore, and the hotels are not the same as Europe.

"He was not allowed sooner than on board as an saloon which I spent visiting Napoli at the risk of being left behind. Those of us who were saloon went first, and accompanied by a tour guide, we were around that city. It was the first European city I saw, although Pernambuco in passing, from anyone to surprise, most elegant coach, guided by a guide who spoke French. I went through those streets, carefully paved with large, black, flat paving stones, and crossed by avenues of bronze. Naples, as you know, is surrounded by mountains, the finest one of all and covered makes the most stone of the country, especially if he comes from the colonies. How can I mention in the title to stop and stay, study, examine it more closely and a little more carefully? Many times I have regretted that I now would leave me behind. But all the impossible, our passions's not too much, because the coach man and guide cheated me, charging me four times more than he agreed price."

When Rizal describes the good occasions he had from other passengers, some of whom guessed that he was from the Philippines and also other nationalities for a Japanese, he understood why he had to travel first class. He would be discriminated against in cooler class. Besides, everyone who watched "Titanic" knows that those days first class passengers had life boats and life vests during an emergency. Everyone else had to take their life.

Rizal also stayed to the best hotels. How he always chose the right room elsewhere.

In fact Rizal Noypli to one of the best hotels, if not the best, in Marseilles, with all the comforts, excellent mobile interior, including service for going up and down all the floors without

Rizal also noted that her penchant for backing so-last Catholic fault to explain her democratization to shed light on the management issue provided a non-Catholic opponent to divide her. "But I explained that I keep mentioning my Catholic confessor never at anyone appears to see her fellow Catholics, who do not promote their faith while in public service. We need everyone to point to other light and conquer darkness."

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Gov't absence at quake site hit

FILIPINOS AFFECTED by the deadly earthquake that struck New Zealand last Feb. 22 are in the dark. Affected families deserve but the presence and support of the Philippine government in places where they are badly needed.

According to Mary de Lima, Migrante Aotearoa coordinator in Christchurch, "We have not seen Philippine embassy officials in the affected communities and there is not even a hotline where the affected families can avail of information, get updates and seek support from Philippine authorities. We believe this is crucial especially for those who lost homes and need immediate relocation."

We are dismayed that the Philippine Embassy is not showing any concrete steps to handling of the situation. Even at the Philippine Embassy website, no coordinated information on the status of Filipinos. During the briefing conducted at Christchurch by Consul Jerry Pelias Tinsay Commander Dave Cliff with International diplomatic dept after the earthquake, there was no mention of any Philippine diplomat present.

We are calling the attention of the Philippine Embassy to act up the necessary measures and do its job to assist affected Filipinos in Christchurch.

Migrante Aotearoa has been working with other Filipino community organizations in Christchurch to support the victims. We have been receiving calls on what to do and where to go. Although majority of Migrante members are based in Auckland, they are willing to accommodate distressed Filipinos who would like to move to Wellington or Auckland for the meantime.

—CERISE BEIN,
spokesperson, Migrante Aotearoa,
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Will contraceptives ensure protection from sexual violence?

I NOW so make some comments on Rina Jimenez-David's column titled "Reproductive control," Inquirer, 2/22/11).

The greater part of that column, based on private audiences by Rina Carrie Rubin about the violence done by men hurting women to get pregnant against their will. The report concluded that "young victims of violence by intimate partners are at an increased risk to be unplanned pregnancies and to sexually transmitted diseases."

The Church has always recognized the existence of and determined the crime of violence committed against women, including those also lead to unwanted pregnancy. The means, which the Church has always preached to solve the problems involved in these acts of violence, are what it has taught us: respect people and their rights, turn away from sin, bring offenders to justice and work on their conversion; and provide charity by helping those victims of trauma and violence.

It seems that the solution advanced by David goes in a different direction: she wants women to have contraceptives ready at hand so that in case they suffer violent assaults, they will not get pregnant. This is also the reason women have long agitated for methods of family planning that put contraception firmly in their hands," she wrote.

The question is: Will using contraceptives stop the violence against women? Will contraception change the mind of the assailant? Will it do justice to the victim? Will it solve the problems of crimes committed against women? Or will things get worse? It seems to me that David is using a simplistic and erroneous means in order to solve complex problems. It may seem to her that using contraceptives is an act of self-defense in such situations of violence. But it may really turn out to be more of an act of unjust exercise on the act of violence. More violence responses.

David also wrote: "It's all very well for celibate bishops and priests to insist that couples engage in 'natural' family planning only, but another thing for these clerics to be around when the man comes home drunk and lordly or lustful to demand sex from his wife." I do not want to defend celibate priests, but I would like to say that the Church has always taught that sexuality is a gift of God to be used in the context of marriage. Sexuality is not a thing to be used for pleasure only. Sexuality is a thing to be used for procreation and for the unitive meaning of the spouses. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of the spouses and for the good of the children. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of the family. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of society. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of the Church. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of the world. Sexuality is a thing to be used for the good of God.

—FR. CHUBBY L. BALLESIL,
111 B. Gonzales St.,
Loyola Heights, QC

LETTERS

Stop trimming of shade trees

THIS IS the second time I am writing about the "Edsa trees." The first time was when the metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) cut the trees along Edsa Boni-Ortigas Aguinaldo and all along the front of white House Avenue. Then we saw saplings of Acacia trees planted along Edsa and are thoughts it was temporary while the MMDA to do so. How time grow but provide good shade in due time.

Most of the trees along Edsa grow big and would have started to provide much needed shade for pedestrians and for "gateway" the landscape. But to and behold! The trees were all trimmed and made unrecognized.

We would like to call the attention of MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino to stop the trimming of these trees once matures and let the trees grow to their natural height. Somebody from the MMDA should go to Guangzhou, China and look at the shade provided by the large trees planted along the sidewalks in Dongfeng Zi Lu Road, Barcelona in Spain also because of medium-height trees planted along sidewalks all over the city, but none of them are trimmed into topiaries.

Manila is in the tropics and lollipop trees would provide a much-desired shade for pedestrians and motorists alike, not to mention the beneficial environmental effects that trees have—for example, on the air we breathe.

—RONALD S. BERNARDO,
chairman,
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Transfer of NFA functions opposed

THE NATIONAL government, through the National Food Authority (NFA), has a duty to help Filipino rice farmers—but foreign-born producers, NFA says from home based farmers for food security stocks. Has importation it done so is too secure, only when shortfalls in rice production worsen it.

If government would fully support agriculture, our local rice production will be more than enough—even for export. But the Aquino administration will have nothing of this simple truth. Instead it wants NFA's main functions—of procuring rice from farmers and disposing rice—turned over to the private sector.

NFA was created in the 1970s to address rice price manipulations by the private sector. But since 1986 when Ferdinand Marcos was ousted by the people, NFA has become the big rice importer/cartels take over NFA's food security functions.

With private sector importations, rice farmers in the Philippines will soon become a thing of the past, and "rice self-sufficiency" a great Filipino aspiration for the 21st century will be limited dream for them. We will however be dependent on other rice-producing countries—and self-sufficiency, therefore for our rice needs.

With private sector importations taking over government's food security functions, prices of rice will be manipulated. As we say earlier, there will be no operational or quality standard requirement on public services to operate all. What eating will be the order of business?

From 2001 to 2004 prices were supposed very much below their allotted volume. In the end, the government, through NFA, had to import rice to make up for the shortfall. Importation of rice from Vietnam to Thailand was the reason food security for the nation.

During the rice crises of 1995 and 2008, the private sector failed to deliver its commitment of additional emergency rice stocks because of any domestic rice "supply deficits." NFA stood these tasks of state solutions private sector interventions.

Importation matters will definitely monopolize palace prices by handpicking the unscrupulous few given from poor farmers, profiteering traders will merely manipulate the prices in the markets.

In calamity-stricken areas, limited NFA's supply will be diverted by the private sector with, of course, huge profits in mind. The detrimental effects of a calamity will be further compounded by obstructing policies of commercial rice.

Rice importation is a matter of national peace through the multinational cash transfer. FOOD peoples will rise and this can be true, in the long run, OUT will become the target as open power becomes depleted of accessible and affordable rice.

In view of all these, NFA should be made to continue performing its stabilization and regulatory functions and provide necessary resources and help local farmers to become more productive, with rice self-sufficiency for the country as its ultimate goal.

The government should immediately remove the subsidy for local farmers to level comparable to other rice-producing, for developing countries to focus to maximize providing the people with affordable and healthy staple food.

—TEODULFO S. ALMARIES,
national secretary-general,
National Food Authority
Employees Association (NFEA-IU)
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Reyes brought dark secrets to his grave

WE FULLY agree with Gerardo de Quiroz in his column titled "One Satanic Rifle," Inquirer, 2/14/11).

The death of Angelo Reyes is tragic. He held the highest position in the Philippine military: a Filipino soldier's dream, and it is one which encourage and inspire those he was able to reach. But paradoxically.

His withdrawal of support from President Joseph Estrada, his personal friend and "kumpadre," was seen by many Filipinos as an act of betrayal. We saw in him the true milestone of the people, of the country and the Constitution when he chose to depart from the side of what his eye was seeing and heard on the side of what his thought was right. He saw inside his personal relationship with his president forced by following that Constitution thrown "making his faith, pain, making karma-wrong-ends, making the multitude."

It would have for known as People Power 2. The memory of People Power 1 was in the minds of the Filipino people where former Marcos' ideas now Senator Ramon Mitra, Jose Paterno Enrile and then AFP Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos, withdrew their support for the latter, which eventually led to the fall of Marcos' neo-dictator rule. Truth and justice walked in among the innocent streets between of this glorious revolution.

Yet President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo replaced Estrada for Angelo Reyes in his position. She knew expressed him to continue the Estrada rule she ended. She then has shown her true vision.

She broke her promise not to run in the 2004 presidential election which she won in the race of many through massive fraud, with help Mahen Gonzalez Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Its proclamation complaints were filed against her year after year amid allegations of massive corruption scandals involving her and her husband. She polarized the nation and her popularity plummeted to disastrous depths. But she formed a six-star term court questions about her legitimacy, this was to no small chunks in her favor. Initiating Reyes, who blindly supported her.

Had Reyes did so days what he did in Estrada, he would have answered a hero's burial with full-military honors. But this is God the very last minute of his life he made no lies and he opted to end his life and bring the dark secrets he knew to his grave. What Reyes took Reyes that Monday afternoon before he took his life Thursday morning is something only Reyes now knows.

Reyes "betrayed" his friend Estrada for the people and country, but in so that was not betrayal. It was a patriotic duty Reyes did "betrayed" by his "kumpadre" George Sabusa who rightly believes it is his patriotic duty to reveal the evils he knows before his life on earth ends.

The evil that men do live after them, but the good interred with their bones.

Now that Reyes is finally laid to rest, the Senate and Congress should resume their investigations, as no doubt, known secrets he the truth in the circumstances surrounding his death country once and for all.

—RAMON BAUTISTA,
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DOJ recommends LTO chief suspension

TORRES

From page A1

of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Office of the President that Torres be suspended for neglect and incompetence.

The DOJ report recommended that administrative charges for libel against Torres, a shooting range buddy of President Aquino, for grave misconduct and "complicity" with the Batchelor Holdings group in the takeover of Steadmont on Dec. 9.

Viper, being formally charged, Torres [illegible] be asked to take an indefinite leave of absence or, in case of refusal, that she be placed under preventive suspension," the report recommended.

The report also recommended that Torres' executive assistant Mendita Abaral explain why she should not be administratively charged for her "grave misconduct or acts inimical to the service."

Abaral declined to comment, saying that she had not seen the report yet.

The Bureau attempted but could not reach Torres for comment.

Torres has been accused of aiding the group of Batchelor and his partners Abbevin Yabes, in their attempted takeover of Steadmont's offices last year following her appointment as LTO chief by Malacañang. The two claim to be the rightful owners of the company's management and have vowed to focus on recovering Steadmont from Yabes and Quiambao.

In a crackdown on car theft syndicates, Torres also has under under DOJ investigation for forbidden of documents in connection with the alleged irregular registration of a motorcycle frame in 2009 while she was head of the LTO branch in Subic using paper specific for itself. It's now in the hands of the Palace and the DOTC."

P2.8-B contract

The LTO signed in 1998 a P2.8 billion contract with Stradcom, an American consortium, to put online electronically all of the LTO's 250 district offices. Stradcom was to invest more than $100 million in the project approved by the National Economic Development Authority and former President Fidel Ramos.

Under the contract, the company operates the LTO database of registered vehicles and driver's license holders; it also handles the nationwide daily opinion before the LTO, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and Metro Manila Development Authority. The contract expires in 2013. With Elmo Fabonan, Inquirer Research

Operations paralyzed

The takeover by about 30 armed guards prevented legal, can personnel from accessing the LTO database of license holders and registered vehicles, paralyzing the agency's nationwide operations for about seven hours.

Torres has denied any involvement in the failed takeover. However, the DOJ noted that Torres admitted in hearing on order to the LTO's security personnel not to interfere in the takeover at Steadmont.

The DOJ report said Torres should be reprimanded for her inability to keep the situation under control.

The DOJ also said Torres' actions that day—surveillance footage showed the officials with Sandoval and Yabes entering Steadmont's offices—indicated that she was likely acting with the group in the ride to corporate dispute.

Inaction deliberate

"It was a simple intervention, an exercise of control and authority by the DOTC Secretary over the house, which Torres herself could and should have done at the very first opportunity and have the need of being told to do so by her superiors," the report said.

"Was it her sensibility or was it her lack of it, that Torres has to transform and leap her from doing at the time what seemed so obvious in every responsible official holding a position like hers?" the DOJ asked.

"The committee believes that her inaction was deliberate. (She could not have been that incompetent or negligent)," it added.

In an interview, Justice Undersecretary Roman said: "We've done our job. The report speaks for itself. It's now in the hands of the Palace and the DOTC."

Meralco service at work.

A news report maintenance and constant upgrading of our power distribution facilities to secure the delivery of reliable electricity. In this regard, some power interruptions in the following areas are unavoidable.

Please be assured that we are working as efficiently and as quickly to restore carrying the latest inconvenience.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011

MANILA (SAMPALOC) AND QUEZON CITY

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS 9111, 9112, 9113, 9114, 9115, 9116, 9117, 9118, 9119, 9120, 9121, 9122, 9123, 9124, 9125, 9126, 9127, 9128, 9129, 9130, 9131, 9132, 9133, 9134, 9135, 9136, 9137, 9138, 9139, 9140, 9141, 9142, 9143, 9144, 9145, 9146, 9147, 9148, 9149, 9150,

Understanding the Role of Stock Inventories in Oil Pricing

In today's environment of increasing prices of crude and petroleum products, a common question being raised is 'why local selling prices reflect current high prices when oil companies have inventories bought some time ago when prices were lower? Shouldn't they first exhaust their old stocks following first-in, first-out accounting and not have windfall gains at the expense of the public?'

This question appears logical and reasonable at first glance. But it is worth understanding why countries where markets are open, like Singapore, Hongkong, Australia, United States, United Kingdom, France, among others, similarly reflect international oil prices immediately, some on a daily basis like the US and Thailand, and others on a weekly basis like Hongkong and Singapore. The main reason for this is to ensure pricing transparency, such that what the public sees in the international market, whether prices are going up or down, are immediately reflected in the local market.

To explain further, refiners and finished product importers have different inventory levels, with refiners having about 40-60 days of stocks, while product importers normally maintain about 7-14 days of stocks.

As has been observed in the market, when prices are increasing, which is what is happening now, even if refiners hold a longer term inventory of say, 45 days, if they continue to sell at lower prices till they use up their inventory, this may be seen to be undermining competition.

Conversely, when prices are dropping, product importers will immediately reflect the current lower prices, which refiners are forced to match in order to remain competitive. For how will they make the public accept a delayed price reduction, just because they have stocks bought at high prices? How will the public know what inventory levels and days they should wait before prices are reduced? Will the oil companies not be accused of delaying price reduction to make more money?

For the above reasons, reflecting current international oil prices is the most transparent way of pricing and therefore, the norm in open markets.

Currently, the utmost urgency is in ensuring supply security and mitigating the impact of the price increases to the public, especially the disadvantaged sectors.

In support of the Government, we in Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), have increased our crude and product inventories at maximum levels of at least 60 days, to ensure continuity of supply to meet our customers' requirements, notwithstanding the associated higher costs of doing so.

Further, to mitigate the impact of higher oil prices on the public, we are maintaining close to 150 Shell Pepeng Pasada Club Loyalty and DOE lanes that offer discounts to public utility vehicles. We likewise remain in support of the Government's advocacy on energy efficiency and conservation.

This is a time to engage and help calm the public, and to plan for contingencies. We continue in our aims of working together towards helping the Philippines address the ever-increasing challenges of our changing world.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Logging equipment banned in forests

By Kristine L. Alave
in Manila
and Jhay Catiwa
Inquirer Visayas

LOGGING EQUIPMENT are now banned inside national and residual forests nationwide, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said yesterday.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said he directed DENR regional directors to remove all logging, milling and hauling equipment from natural and residual forests by the end of February.

The directive was in accordance with Executive Order No. 23 issued by President Aquino on Feb. 1, 2011, declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvest of timber in natural and residual forests and creating an anti-illegal logging task force.

LOGS illegally cut await transport in the Quiray River in Sierra Madre in this photo taken in January. STAR FILE PHOTO / ALVIN KASIBANG

"This is to ensure that no further timbers harvesting shall be done following the imposition of the logging moratorium by President Aquino," Paje said.

He said all wood processing plants are required by the EO to submit in the task force a list of their sources of wood for the next five years.

The DENR has also stopped issuing wood processing permits, tabacalera and re-validation, for sawmills, mini-sawmills and veneer and plywood plants.

The fight against illegal logging has taken a violent turn in some provinces.

In Tacloban City, environmental officer Dario Gilla, 53, was shot dead outside his home there.

But his murder, which is being linked to the campaign against illegal logging in Samar where Gilla is community environment and natural resources officer, would not deter the Eastern Visayas office of the DENR from its war on illegal logging.

Primitivo Galicano Jr., DENR regional executive director, said Gilla's murder strengthened the resolve of the DENR in the fight against illegal logging.

Senior Supt. Wilson Cimbar, Tacloban police director, said Gilla's killing could be related to his relentless campaign against illegal loggers in Sta. Rosa, Samar.

Cimbar, however, won't provide more details. Galicano said he was convinced that Gilla was murdered because of his work against illegal logging in the Samar town.

"He was very active in his enforcement of illegal logging activity," Galicano said. Paje condemned Gilla's murder.

"If this killing turns out to be related to the government's effort against illegal logging, then it would be a validation of our fear that the fiercest response of illegal loggers have become increasingly brutal and are spreading across regions," Paje said.

Gilla was the latest environment officer killed in connection with logging. In 2010, three forestry officers were killed in the province of Aparri and in the Cagayan region.

Last July, forest ranger Kennedy Elser Dayaal was shot dead in Lasa, Aparri. Rolando Sandico, DENR tree marker, and Rolando Sinadaj, forest ranger, were murdered separately in Sitio del Sur last December.

Earlier this year, DENR forest ranger Jaime P. Dragas, 35, was murdered. Dragas was active in the campaign against illegal logging in Caraga, which Paje described as the "killing field of forest protection workers."

2 dead in attack, assailant kills self in AFP camp

By Rodrigelyn Arnia
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA (2TV)—Three persons were dead in a military camp here on Tuesday in what appeared to be a gun attack that killed a retired officer and his wife and a soldier by the alleged assailant.

The killings and apparent suicide took place inside the camp of the Western Command (Wescom) in this city, according to a military report that was timely shortly as a result of an apparent news blackout being imposed by authorities in the command.

According to a brief statement issued by the Wescom, spokesman Jose Santiago, 58, and Marina Santiago, nurse at the naval service inside the command, were shot dead in their home inside the military camp allegedly by Chief PO2c Officer Manuel Quitorio at around 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Quitorio, no turn, shot himself immediately after shooting the couple at the Santiago residence inside the compound of the Naval Forces West here, according to an initial statement issued by the military command and signed by Wescom spokesperson Maj. Gen. Anthony Rabonza.

Marina Santiago, reports gathered at the camp said, died while undergoing treatment at the Wescom military hospital, while her husband, Jose, died of multiple gunshot wounds during treatment after he was rushed by neighbors to Ospitalyo Hospital also in Puerto Princesa City.

In the official statement, Rabonza said authorities were still investigating the motive for the shooting, adding that they were looking at the possibility of a dispute over a financial transaction between the Santiago couple and Quitorio.

Quitorio was set to board a military C-130 aircraft on Tuesday afternoon bound for Manila but decided to turn back and head to the couple's house and attacked them, according to a blood source who asked not be identified as he has no authority to speak on the shootings.

Goodwill pours for PNP: Another land donated

By Dette T. Pallez Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA (2TV)—One act of goodwill after another.

A provincial board member, scion of a landed clan in Bondoc Peninsula, made a verbal offer to donate at least 10 hectares of his clan's property for use in a housing project of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Board Member Victor Reyes' offer followed the donation by Tayabas Bay Command Corp. of a 2.7-ha land for police housing in Dalahican.

Ceremonies for the donation were held on Monday. The lot, belonging to the Tiu-Tiliana family, would be used for housing and a training camp for policemen, according to Insp. Elena Elmaize, Quezon police information officer.

Apparently inspired by it, Reyes said, he, too, was offering part of his family's property for police housing.

"The police housing project is a noble one. It needs all the support from the private sector. I'm sure there will be no dispute in the ownership of our land," said Reyes. The land he is offering is in San Narciso town and along the national highway.

Comelec scored for insisting on ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—A civil society group has criticized the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for insisting on holding the August elections in the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The Bantay ARMM Now! (BAN) said the Comelec should instead agree to the proposal to reset the elections to 2013.

Father Eduardo Chuy Sanchez, a Jesuit priest quoted in saying the elections would push through and P12 billion would be spent for computerized voting.

Fully Brahim, BAN convener, said using computers would never ensure a hassle-free exercise in the region.

"In recent years, we had elections using these machines but it did not solve the problems of massive fraud and cheating in the region," Brahim told reporters here on Wednesday.

Running out of time

Tom Mihata, another convener of BAN, said with only a few months to go, the Comelec is running out of time and can never ensure that the elections in the ARMM will be "free and free from fraud."

"We are wondering why the Comelec insists on conducting the elections in August," he said.

Mihata said his group was also wondering why the Comelec wanted P12.2 billion for the elections.

He said the poll body should instead agree to postpone the elections and use the break to observe the region's woes first.

He said postponing the elections to 2013 is the only assurance that genuine reforms can be done in ARMM.

For Mujaiddam Ibok Ismael Mangudadatu, the government would provide the government time to revive the peace agreement it signed with the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996.

"With the ample time, we hope that we can subsequently come up with the full implementation of the provisions of the agreement," said the governor.

The postponement, he said, can also save money for the government that could be used for genuine elections and reforms.

Reform provision

Ibok said the failed last congressional recently passed did not really seek to reset the elections but also stretched the elections of the voters list in ARMM.

"We would like to raise the impression that ARMM is a shining capital," said Mujaiddam Ibok Bai Sandra Ismael, one of the authors of a bill that seeks to postpone the ARMM elections.

Although opposed to the postponement of the elections, Catholic priest Fr. Ismel Pescalla, regional chair for ARMM of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, supported Anyo's stand to choose the voters' list and not biometrics.

"By then, the rain, dogs, birth and other factors you have no control chance to cast their votes as in the past," Pescalla said in part, referring to multiple registrants and flying voters in the ARMM. *Jeffrey M. Tupas and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

BACK TO BASICS. Pregnant city mud hauls on rice farming in Tayabas, Quezon, a sign that despite massive migration from rural to urban areas, there is hope for farm-reared kids for an acceptable option for younger generations.

Parents rage over Ecija school graduation fee

GAPAN CITY—Elementary graduation fees allegedly being imposed by public elementary schools here have enraged parents, putting the city's schools division office in hot water.

Many of the schools have charged parents P800 for each of their graduating students. Some parents claimed that the fees amount to P1,600. But school officials said the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) of these schools had approved the fees.

Jocelyn Pineda, city schools division superintendent, said controversies over the graduation fees drove to the 365 Gotas Kasi Elementary School and the Sto. Cristo Ina Elementary School, both in this city.

The schools division has jurisdiction over 23 elementary schools and eight high schools.

Officials in these schools have explained that an official PTA resolution approved the amount for the graduation of their children," Pineda said in a telephone interview.

She was on sick leave when the fees were raised but after the fees were collected.

Peregrin Lagrana, principal of Sto. Cristo Ina Elementary School, said, "We are collecting P800 only, [which was] approved by the graduating class officials."

According to the minutes of the Feb. 11 PTA meeting of the school, the P800 would be used for rentals for chairs and logos, production of the graduation program and invitations, food and reproduction of certificates and report cards.

Pineda said her office had also been informed about a plan of the graduating class of a high school here to raise funds by selling tickets for a cultural presentation. But the fund-raising project has not materialized, she said.

The Department of Education has banned the collection of graduation and other fees from students of public schools. Soarnio, who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution, said Pineda has been accused of administrative in the cutbacks of principals under her division and of abuse of authority. *Armando Sadang, Inquirer Central Luzon*

25 for 25

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's
25TH ANNIVERSARY RUN

People may have different reasons for running, but one worthy cause will surely gather thousands of runners to aim for the finish line.

Last February 27, 2011, over 2,000 people gathered at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig to participate in the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Silver Anniversary Fun Run. The event, dubbed as "25 for 25," was for the benefit of the Inquirer Newsboy Foundation, the children of the Maguindanao massacre victims, and Gifts and Graces Foundation, each of which will receive P25,000.00.

The Inquirer aims to provide scholarships for 12 school-age children of the journalists who were killed in the Maguindanao massacre. "These children lost their mothers and fathers who were the sole breadwinners of their families," Carmen Katagayan of Inquirer Corporate Affairs said. It also aspires to continuously help children, streetboys in particular, finish school through the Inquirer Newsboy Foundation and assist various groups, including disadvantaged communities, urban poor residents, and people with disabilities, engage in livelihood programs through Gifts and Graces Foundation.

Cash prizes and gift items were given away to race winners of the four categories – 3K, 5K, 10K, and 25K five-man relay. The winners were: **3K (Women):** Mary Anne de la Cruz (1st), Janelle Aguas (2nd), Isabel Rosas (3rd); **3K (Men):** Kimbert Sarmiento (1st), Rairo Lacson (2nd), Ronald Salgado (3rd); **5K (Women):** Bo-en Banzuag (1st), Mirasol Abad (2nd), Janelle Lumidao (3rd); **5K (Men):** Daniel Kalimlim Borlaga (1st), Christopher Ulloa (2nd), Abraham Mosos (3rd); **10K (Women):** Remedios Fesalvero (1st), Rhea-Ann Bancena (2nd), Luisa Ballesta (3rd); **10K (Men):** Jaypee Kalaw-ar Tee (1st), Rene Herrera (2nd), Willy Yanal (3rd); **25K (Relay):** Team Brooks (1st), Powerpuff Boys (2nd), Fast Lane Runners (3rd).

"25 for 25" was made possible by K-Swiss and Magnolia Ice (co-presenters), Mizuno (silver sponsor), Bonifacio Global City (official venue), Rotexo (official time keeper), Powerade and Viva Mineral Water (official hydration partners), Unilab Active Health, Nature Valley, and Goody (minor sponsors), and Sanofi Aventis, Pentasocial, and Club Adidas (exhibitors).

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VICTIM SAYS ASSAULT OCCURRED IN POLICE STATION

Another cop accused of rape

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ANOTHER woman has accused a policeman of raping her inside a police station.

A report submitted by Quezon City Police District (QCPD) head, Chief Supt. Benjardi Matyeke, to Director Eleazar Barredazar of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) identified the policeman as PO2 Rodrigo Bisag.

According to Matyeke, Bisag has not reported for work since Feb. 22—the day the rape supposedly took place—prompting him to order a manhunt.

The complaint against Bisag was filed by a woman who was detained for drugs from Feb. 8 to 26 at the QCPD Station 12 in Batasan Hills, where the policeman was assigned. She has since been released on bail.

Matyeke said that summary dismissal proceedings against the policeman had been initiated based on the pre-charge evaluation conducted by the District Investigation and Detective Management section chief, Sebastian Rodriguez.

Criminal charges were also filed against him with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Matyeke added that four police officers assigned to QCPD Station 12, including the station's night shift desk officer on duty at the time of the alleged rape, would undergo questioning.

"We want to know how this criminal act happened inside the police station [and] the names of possible figures in these incidents," he said.

In his report to the NCRPO chief, Matyeke said the rape happened at 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 22.

ANOTHER, A14

Public hearing on Alabang ordinance set

By Tina G. Santos

OFFICIALS of the Muntinlupa City government and Barangay Ayala Alabang have agreed to put on hold the implementation of an ordinance which would require residents of one of the richest barangays in Metro Manila to first present a doctor's prescription if they want to buy condoms.

Outer Access, the city's public information officer, said Mayor Aldrin San Pedro and officials of the barangay led by its chair, Alfred Dante Banayo, decided during a meeting yesterday morning to take no action on the ordinance pending the conduct of another public consultation on March 19.

"The ordinance will not yet be enforced. It was agreed that the ban [on condoms] would [not] be discussed during the consultation would only be limited to the issues raised by the health committee of the city council," Acosta told the Inquirer.

He added, "After the public consultation, the revised version of the ordinance will be subjected again to the mandatory review and approval [of] the city council. The review

BYBAN, A14

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Another cop . . .

From page A13

Based on the complaint the alleged victim filed with the station's Women's Desk, she was asleep in her cell when Bajog, who was dressed in a pair of shorts and seemed to be drunk, woke her up and told her to follow him.

She said she tried to ask him where they were going but he drew his gun, pointed it at her chest and told her to shut up.

The woman claimed Bajog pulled her by the hand and took her to the police station's conference room on the second floor which was empty.

At gunpoint, he told her to remove her clothes while he stripped off his shorts and then raped her.

Earlier this year, a woman vendor who was arrested for reportedly exposed POG tycoon Barretto, a member of the Manila Police District, of raping her inside the police headquarters on Dec. 21.

Barretto was later charged in court.

Public hearing . . .

From page A13

men should be in accordance with the suggestions and recommendations of the city council."

The city council earlier reminded the ordinance to the barangay level, saying some portions might be viewed as an infringement of human rights. It also asked Bangoy and the other officials, through a letter, to clarify certain provisions.

"The right of any individual to access contraceptives and family planning methods deemed illegal in the barangay ordinance, not allowed by the Department of Health, may constitute violation of the equal protection clause of the Constitution," the city council had said in its letter to the barangay.

Some members of the city council are expected to act as observers during the public consultation that will be held at the Alabang Country Club.

Bangoy earlier maintained that the controversial ordinance was "consistent with the Constitution" and did not violate any laws, contrary to the position taken by the city council's health committee.

'On-cam killer,' 2 cohorts plead not guilty

By Kristine Felison Mangunay

THE GUSMAN in the killing of a Caloocan City barangay councilor—an ex-cop first was caught on camera—and his two cohorts were arraigned on a charge of murder in court yesterday.

But since Arnel Buenaflor, Richard Bellen and Frederick Salas refused to say anything, Judge Oscar Bautista of the Caloocan Regional Trial Court Branch 123 entered a plea of not guilty on their behalf.

Their lawyer, Glynn Gallego, told the judge that he intends to appeal the court's earlier decision to junk a motion to quash the information against his clients.

Bautista set the pre-trial hearing on April 19.

On Jan. 1, a few minutes after the start of the New Year, barangay 76 councilor Reynaldo Dagoc was shot by Buenaflor as he was taking a picture of his family in front of their house in Bagumbayan, Caloocan.

The photograph, which first came public to the inquiries, showed Buenaflor aiming a .45 cal. pistol at Dagoc while a toddler, later identified as Reylon, stood behind the victim's family.

Two other alleged accomplices, Francis Bernal and Rommel Dilos, remain at large.

Buenaflor, who went into hiding after the shooting, was arrested on Jan. 6 in Marikina, police said.

When sought for comment by the inquirer, Randy Serrano, counsel for the Dagoc family, said he was confident of the pieces of evidence against the accused, including Buenaflor's statement that he did not regret killing the victim.

The lawyer, Gallego, was more reserve. "Let's leave it to the courts," he told the inquirer.

Attempts to interview Buenaflor, Bellen and Salas inside a temporary detention cell behind the courtroom proved futile.

The arraignment started at 8:30 a.m. in the courtroom which was packed with supporters of the slain councilor.

They were clad in black T-shirts which bore the message: "Justice for Kapitan Dagoc." Above, the victim's smile was also present.

"Justice will be served," she told the inquirer.

METROBRIEFS

Gang of teen thieves busted

A FORMIDY gang composed mostly of teenagers were arrested by allied policemen after they robbed the passengers of a jeepney yesterday in Manila. One of the gang members, a 17-year-old boy was detained at the custody attending doctors at Ospital ng Maynila from a gunshot wound in his body. Two other members aged 13 and 16 and Daniel Lazaro, 22, were injured when they landed on the ground. Sgt. Ed Bibe member, also a teenager, managed to escape. Reports from the Manila Police District Meidel Patrol Unit said the robbers took place at around 8 a.m. yesterday on Padre Burgos St. (formerly Vito Cruz) Street in Manila. Richard Hugo, 30, the jeepney driver, said one of the gang members told a victim to his friend while the others started divesting the passengers of their valuables. When Hugo saw that a police car be done the attention of the policemen by driving alongside their vehicle. The robbers, however, jumped out of the jeepney, heading to a third and a third out.

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Transport board suspends franchises of 4 bus firms

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the franchises of four more bus companies for refusing to field their vehicles during a bus strike on Nov. 15.

The mass action, which was in protest of the government's decision to impose the number coding scheme on passenger buses, left thousands of commuters in Metro Manila stranded.

Ordered suspended for six months were the operations of Jayvan Lucky 7 Tours Bus Co., Laguna Star Bus Transportation Services Inc. and buses owned by businessman Angelito Chang, according to LTFRB board member Manuel Isaac.

JSMS Golden Mx Transport Inc., meanwhile, was handed down a three-month suspension.

All four companies had failed to give a valid reason for their bus drivers' failure to ply their routes during the strike.

Jeep and Jayvan and JSMS, which have 82 and 39 buses, respectively, had claimed that their drivers received threats from other groups which ensured them to join the strike.

The three claims were unsubstantiated. There was no evidence," Isaac said.

Chang, for his part, invoked his right to peaceful assembly. To this, Isaac responded that "the LTFRB's powers allow it to compel franchise holders to deliver their services to the public."

Laguna Star, meanwhile, denied that its buses were on strike. However, the LTFRB said it had certification to show that most of the firm's buses were not fielded on Nov. 15.

Isaac said that after the first of seven al hearings to discuss the appeals of bus companies whose franchises had either been cancelled or suspended would be held on March 24.

Mendoza arraigned on disobedience raps

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THE ARRAIGNMENT on serious disobedience charges filed by the Manila Police District (MPD) against MPD Gregorio Mendoza finally pushed through yesterday afternoon, with the respondent refusing to enter a plea.

The policeman was charged last year with serious disobedience for entering a confined area in civilian clothes against police orders...and armed with his service firearm—during the hostage-taking at the Quirino Grandstand on Aug. 23.

Gregorio's brother, former Insp. Rolando Mendoza, who had taken hostage a busload of tourists, was slain in the incident that also left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

Manila Metropolitan Branch 53 Presiding Judge Ernie Ernest Lorin R. Miguel entered a plea of not guilty for Gregorio after the latter's counsel refused to let him enter a plea.

Miguel twice denied Gregorio's motion to quash the information last year. The Manila Regional Trial Court had pushed Gregorio's petition to have Miguel's rulings nullified early February.

The arraignment on Thursday pushed through despite attempts by Gregorio's lawyer, Maye Dominguez Ramos, to file in court another motion to quash the charges the same case, this time "based on duplicity of charges."

"Because of a single act, two cases were filed against [my client]," Ramos argued, referring to another criminal charge of serious illegal detention filed by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 24 last Feb. 16.

"How is that complaint the business of this court?" Miguel demanded, explaining the information filed in his court is only covered the serious disobedience charges.

Ramos, however, insisted on his stand, leading Miguel to again delay proceedings," he added.

The judge denied Ramos' motion to quash the information last year. The Manila Regional Trial Court had pushed Gregorio's petition to have Miguel's rulings nullified early February.

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Ramos, however, insisted on his stand, leading Miguel to again delay proceedings," he added.

The judge denied Ramos' motion to open court before ordering the arraignment and pre-trial conference to proceed.

Gregorio's party admitted they were not ready for a pre-trial conference. "We have to satisfy two administrative cases and three criminal charges against my client before proceeding," Ramos said in an interview.

Miguel set the pre-trial conference for the serious disobedience charges on May 5.

Meanwhile, Chief Insp. Romeo Salvador, deputy regional director during the hostage-taking, said in an interview that Manila RTC Branch 14 was set to issue a warrant of arrest for Gregorio for the serious illegal detention charges.

"We will also be filing the necessary motions for that case," Ramos said.

Gregorio is also facing charges of illegal possession of firearms in court.

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Editor Lawrence K. Cruz

The WORLD

180,000 fleeing Libya overwhelm aid groups

RAS Ajdir border crossing, Tunisia—Tens of thousands of migrant workers fleeing Libya found themselves in a desperate crush of refugees trying to cross the border into Tunisia on Wednesday.

As they waited—some as long as four days—many are sleeping on dusty concrete and hard-packed earth, shielded against the cold in blankets handed out by the Tunisian government and aid groups, others have hung the Tunisian flag from trees to create makeshift tents.

More than half of the estimated 180,000 people fleeing Libya in the past 10 days have sought refuge in Tunisia. Appealing for increased international help on Wednesday, the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, said: "We need concrete action on the ground to provide the humanitarian support that is needed. Time is of the essence. Thousands of lives are at risk."

Several aid groups were operating on the Tunisian and Egyptian borders, handing out food and supplies to refugees and assessing the situation before providing more help.

But it was the Tunisian border that overwhelmed groups the most.

"There is an absolutely acute traffic jam that is impressive!" to one pressure on the border area, Sybella Wilkes, a spokesperson for the UN refugee agency in Geneva, said on Wednesday. The capacity of the border area is increasing."

Britain and France said on Wednesday that they would send planes to airlift stranded Egyptians—a majority of the refugees, along with foreign diplomats, sub-Saharan Africans and others—from the Tunisian border.

Britain's prime minister, David Cameron, told the parliament in London, "I think it is vital to do this, these people shouldn't be kept in unsafe camps if it is possible to take them back to their home, and I am glad that Britain can play such an important part in doing this."

The French government said it would send several planes and a ship to take up to 5,000 Egyptians, and Italy said it would fortify set up a camp on the Tunisian border offering food and medical assistance.

Tunisian officials sought to maintain order on Wednesday, picking sturdier groups to stem lines among the crowds waiting at the crossing.

At one point, officials seemed to single out a small group of people from Guinea-Bissau, who held signs announcing their country of origin, and invited them to cross. The move appeared to upset a much larger group of migrants workers from Bangladesh, who surged around the small gate, forcing the authorities to escort the Guinea-Bissau group through a side door.

Once across, refugees found buses to a nearby airport—though many appeared unsure.

On Libya's border with Egypt, thousands of migrant workers, sleeping on floors and outdoor pavements as they wait for their embassies to approve visas and arrange for flights. —New York Times News Service

US high court: Charter protects funeral protests

WASHINGTON—The First Amendment protects hateful protests at military funerals, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday in an 8-1 decision.

Speech is personal," Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority. "It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and—as it did here—inflict great pain."

But under the First Amendment, he went on, "we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker." Instead, the contested statements by Snyder's protesters, which were considered "vicious, outrageous, hateful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

The decision, from which Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented, was the latest in a series of unanimous First Amendment rulings from the Roberts court. Last year, the court struck down laws banning depictions of animal cruelty and ruling it a crime to distribute depictions of cruelty to animals. In the current year's other major First Amendment case, the court struck down laws on the posters' questioning, to strike down a law banning the sale of violent video games to minors.

Only the dissenters in the animal cruelty case in the recent case did not find a First Amendment problem with the contested depictions.

Yesterday's decision should be robust, established, and wide-open," he wrote, because "speech on public issues occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values."

The case decided on Wednesday arose from a protest at the funeral of a Marine who had died in Iraq.

Jessie Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder. At they had at hundreds of other funerals, members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., appeared with signs bearing messages like "America is doomed!" and "God Hates Fags."

The Church contends that it is punishing the United States for its tolerance of homosexuality.

The father of the fallen Marine, Albert Snyder, sued the protesters for causing other things, the intentional infliction of emotional distress and won a substantial jury award that was later overturned by an appeals court. —New York Times News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

Christian Cabinet minister slain in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan—The only Christian Cabinet minister in Pakistan's government was shot dead on Wednesday in the second killing of another liberal politician, causing opposition to the country's government to redouble its condemnation. The slain official, Shahbaz Bhatti, 41, the minister of minorities, had made a life's work of campaigning for tolerance in Pakistan, which is 97 percent Muslim, and most recently became a lonely voice, with a handful of others, in a campaign to reform the blasphemy law. After the assassination in January of the Punjab province governor, Salmaan Taseer, who had also publicly called for changes to the blasphemy law, Bhatti received death threats. Bhatti, although armed, was quickly overcome by gunfire from behind, although more quietly, by one Liaquat Ali, a man of attainable, impending the law, his accomplice said. The law, introduced by the 1980s, was amended in 1988 under time. Bhatti arrived 21a at Naz, the UD-based military leader, to include the death penalty for those accused of speaking against the Prophet Muhammad. —New York Times News Service

Steve Jobs returns to introduce new iPad

SAN FRANCISCO—Steve Jobs, Apple's chief executive, interrupted his medical leave on Wednesday to talk about the company's much-awaited new iPad, a thinner, faster and lighter version of its popular tablet computer that will sell at the same prices as the original models. The iPad 2 includes front and rear cameras, allowing video conversations, and comes in black and white versions. It will be available on March 11 in the US at prices ranging from $499 to $829, and in Britain and other countries on March 25, Jobs said. But the details of the product were somewhat overshadowed by Jobs' unexpected presence. His appearance lifted the mood of Apple's fans and investors who have worried about the deteriorating health of the company's leader. Jobs was greeted with a standing ovation as he walked on stage, and when he returned, Apple's shares jumped more than $5, or nearly 1 percent. —New York Times News Service

Mubarak and family said to be in Saudi Arabia

Opposition that former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had departed Egypt for Saudi Arabia heightened on Wednesday with a banner headline in a government-owned newspaper saying that he had left by jet after the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh. The newspapers, Al Ahram, reported that Mubarak and his family had gone to the luxurious, ski-resorting area of Sharm el-Sheikh, just across the Straits of Tiran that island, for chemotherapy treatment for his cancer-ridden son, who is suffering from pancreatic and colon cancer, it said. Rumors about Mubarak's whereabouts and health have been his secretive left the presidency on Feb. 11, with the new military government keeping a tight lid on the subject. He and his family have not been seen in public or heard from since he stepped down. —New York Times News Service

MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO IS DATU PUTI's NEWEST BRAND AMBASSADOR

DATU PUTI is very proud to have the people's champ, 8-time world champion Congressman MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO as the newest face of the brand. The new Datu Puti commercial will feature Manny Pacquiao and Mommy Dionisia Pacquiao.

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Editor Teodoro S. Molmisos
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Pacquiao starts buildup for Mosley /A28

SPORTS

■ Spurs first team to reach 50 wins /A30

SMB tests 3 fresh talents

By Jane Navarro

THREE NEW faces will emerge from the San Miguel three-dragon lineup when an Mendoza tries to end a two-game slump at the semisphase of the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen and the Bolts will collide at 5 p.m. with San Miguel providing three recruits from the 21, and Mendoza under pressure to stall a win in the short nine-game elimination format.

The Smart Gilas national team, meanwhile, attempts to put a blemish on Alaska's 3-0 slate in the second match at 7:30 p.m.

The national Der ecrowned Philippine Cup champion Talk N Text, 303-98, in its debut and Alaska coach Tim Cone knows what his Aces, who swept twotime conference Powerade and Gladiator, are up against.

Taller import

"That (size in rebounds and) they can run the floor," said Cone. "They can play defense and have a taller import in Marcus Douthit.

"We need to play tough defensively and execute our offense as well."

Mendoza coach Ryan Gregorio said the Bolts need time to jell after taking successive losses from the Barangay Ginebra Kings (98-115) and the Shin Oil Shine Blazers (92-101).

"We are trying to stabilize our game but the tournament format is so short and we don't have the luxury of time," he added.

The Beermen, however, aren't concerned about an immediate turnaround after unloading their championship core of Danny Ildefonso, Brandon Bowman, Dorian Pelicano and Ariel Arao in a blockbuster trade with the Express.

Top three rookies

In exchange, the Beermen received freebies Sonny Barlas, Rabeh Al-Hussaini and Ian Gazmen, the top three rookie picks of last year's draft.

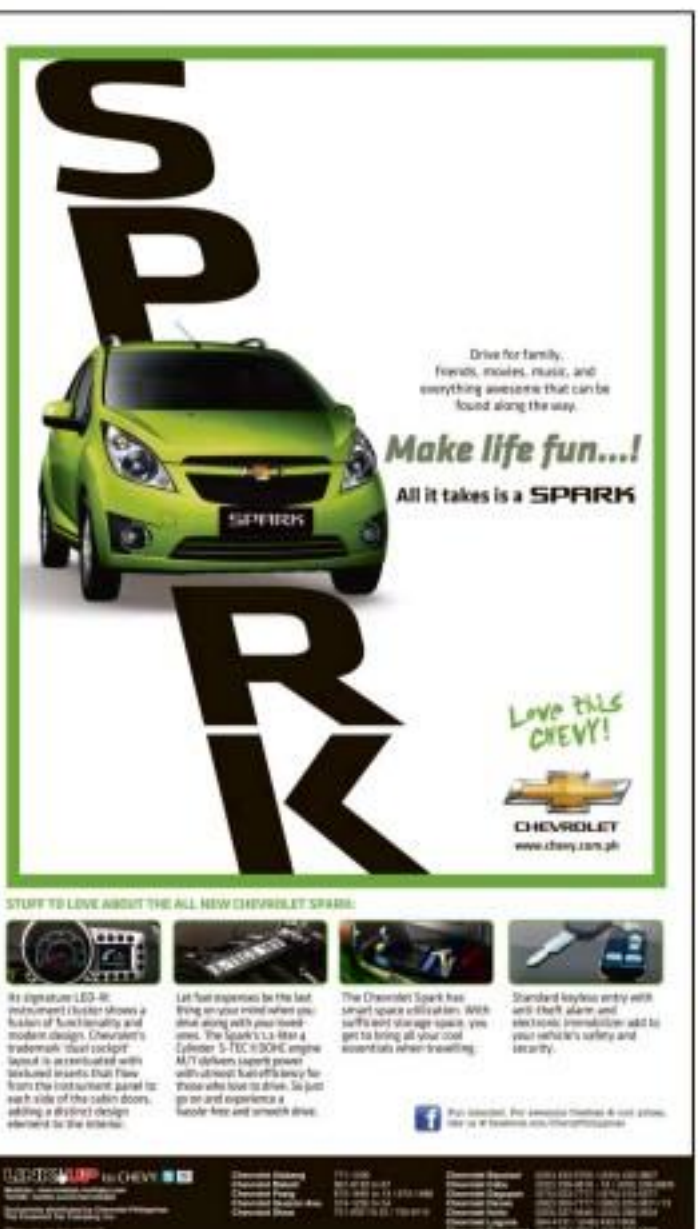
"That is the right time to rebuild the team," said San Miguel coach Ato Agustin. "The trade with the25 will be an important step for us to ensure the continuing success of the San Miguel franchise."

"Although this trade will not be a quick fix for the team, we believe that Al Hussaini, Barlas and Gazmen will slowly but surely be molded into the San Miguel system."

Despite giving up key personnel and their sophomore option to the Express last week, the Beermen maintain a reliable roster headed by Jay Washington, Arwind Santos, Alex Cabagnot and import Ira Brown.

Ronjel Gilas, which is preparing for the FIBA Asia Championship in Qatar, Fil-Am, recently lost forward Mac Baracael to injury but will activate 6-foot-3 Japeth Aguilar to back up the 6-foot-10 Hall in the field.

Aguilar was finally cleared after suffering a knee injury ahead of the Guangzhou Asian Games three months ago.



Busy Pacquiao starts buildup for Mosley

By Ray Leaño

MANNY PACQUIAO started getting into shape yesterday and, as part of the hard grind ahead, reluctantly agreed to do away with the long locks that many have been with him in training.

After playing basketball in Simi Junior City, Pacquiao confided that the basic hair remain untrimmed with his return and went to his personal barber.

The pound-for-pound king later did stretching exercises and jogged for 20 minutes to build up his stamina for the rigorous eight-week preparation for his May 7 showdown with Shane Mosley in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Buddy and trainer Rubert Fernandez counsel Pacquiao to start training regimen charted by chief trainer Freddie Roach.

The first-time Filipino of the Year will be receiving from Los Angeles on Tuesday bringing along super welterweight Shawn Porter and super lightweight David Modzik as Pacquiao's initial sparring partners.

Robin Asan Khan, the World Boxing Association light welter champion, is also coming to work out with the eight-division world champion in the training camp set in Baguio City.

Khan also trains under Roach.

"Road work and conditioning [first]," Fernandez told the Internet over the phone yesterday. "If Pacquiao] had a long layoff and needs to build up his stamina."

Pacquiao last fought on Nov. 13, when he dismantled Mexican Antonio Margarito to claim the World Boxing Council 154-pound crown.

"We looks fine," said Fernandez, who estimates Pacquiao's current weight at between 205 and 210 lb. "We don't need to rush things as he may become over lighter in count."

After spending four weeks in Baguio, Pacquiao will proceed to Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood on April 2 for the final phase of his training.

MANNY Pacquiao starts his long conditioning regimen

Ex-World Cupper Sotto joins PSA Awards guest list

By Cedrik P. Tapay

ANOTHER LAMMAMBO and former top athlete will be in attendance when the country's top sports achievers are honored in the Cojuangco Philippine Sportswriters Association Annual Awards Night tomorrow at the Manila Hotel.

Eric Wendy "Tito" Sotto, a late-blue sportsman, joins the long list of distinguished guests attending the awards night, where billiards ace Francisco "Django" Bustamante and former boxing gold medalist Dennis Orcollo, Bey Sanchez and Rikey Rivera will be honored as Athletes of the Year.

Joining the country's sports firmament in honoring them and the rest of 2010's top achievers in hosting superstar Manny Pacquiao, who will make history by becoming the first Filipino athlete to serve as speaker and guest of honor in the event's 48th.

Sen. Gregorio Ejercito, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., International Olympic Committee representative to the country Frank Chavalit, Philippine Sports Commission chair Akiko Thorsen, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner Chito Salud are also expected to grace the affair.

Sotto, who is also an icon in the entertainment industry, is a two-time gold medalist boxer.

A member of the national team for many years, he also represented the country in the 1978 Bowling World Cup in Bogota, Colombia, in 1979 and in Sydney, Australia in 1985.

Sotto reached the quarterfinals in Bogota before finishing seventh in Sydney.

A single-digit handicap golfer, Sotto often wins his share of pro-am tournaments.

PACQUIAO

SOTTO

ESCUDERO

COJUANGCO

GARCIA

PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan are the other distinguished guests.

Likewise to many, Sotto, who is also an icon in the entertainment industry, is a two-time gold medalist boxer.

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A single-digit handicap golfer, Sotto often wins his share of pro-am tournaments.

He started out with the Letran Knights bowling team in the NCAA, hailing them from 1964 to 1966.

Others to receive sports commissioner Quirino Briones and television host Princess Bernardez Hayes are co-hosting the awards show sponsored by Samsung, Airfalo ATI, Harbour Centre, San Miguel Corp., Bo PSC, Milan/Edward Beverages international Inc., the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Accel, Philippine Basketball Association, and International Container Terminal Services Inc.

A total of 40 athletes and coaches will be honored like you, including 25 major awardees, two Hall of Famers, two Lifetime Achievement honorees, five sweepstakes of the Tony Siddayao award and 11 children.

Singer-actress Eraylle will serenade her grandfather, Cecilio Padilla Jr., a Lifetime Achievement awardee, and the others honorees.

Awardees and guests who failed to get their invitations for the event could pick them up at the PSA reception desk, just outside the hotel's Centennial hall.

However, will be making his second straight hosting stint after picking over or during champion Gabby Dela Rosa to as the magic had over Asymmetrical Heart to be honored after her stints in the 2008 and 2009 editions of the ceremony.

PSA Awardees

Athlete of the Year—Athletes: Manny Pacquiao, Bey Sanchez, Dennis Orcollo, Rikey Rivera.

Hall of Fame—Eric "Tito" Sotto

Tony Siddayao Achievement Award—Athletes: Jeanette Antolin, Marestella Torres, Mona Orquia, Mark Andrew Ramos, Jessie Lacuna, Mayor Lacuna, Jessie Alcantara, Joseph Sy, Jr. Lee Andrew Dyan Ocampo, Angelito Jabian, Jay Ar Taclan, Ma-Ting Abrea-Lora, Elbert Dalacat

Willard Tarok Sportsman of the Year—Archery Association of the Philippines

Lifetime Achievement Award—Lydia Padilla, Virgilio "Dodo" Garcia

Hall of Fame Awardees—John Nyoka, Ramon Suzara, Rogelio Sotto

Lifetime Achievement Award—Lydia Padilla, Virgilio "Dodo" Garcia

Children—Philippine Swords, national team Jan Marvin Brian Virgen, Jessie Mae Virgen, Ian Andrew Lee, Gerard Jan Andrew Reyes, Reynaldo Salvador Jerome Ejercitado, Lois Dominique Ejercitado, Jan Ryan Ejercitado, Jan Christopher Ejercitado, Ma. Angelica Sandoval de Filipinas, Nikki Philippine Sandoval-Arcilla, Ma. Salvacion Jose ng Kapitolyo Ubo Mendoza, and Gerald.

BIALON

Gialon fires 66, forges ahead in Mindanao Am golf

DAVAO CITY—Gialon fired an eight-under-par 66 on Wednesday to grab a two-stroke lead over Mel Arbolo Jaulbery Jr. after the first round of the Mindanao Regional Amateur golf championships at the state-operated Del Monte Golf Club in Maramag, Bukidnon.

Playing out of KTM-PCC, Gialon took advantage of the 5th, 6th and 18th par 5s to launch a pitching wedge to tie an eagle 2 from 30 yards on the par-4 No. 6 and eventually got a two-round 139 lead in the event being presented by Dunlop Phone and SOC Land.

The 23-year-old Gialon, a standout at the Ateneo Regional Golfers Open program from Apo Golf in Davao, also pulled up shots on No. 3, 5, 7 and 18.

Arbolo, a member of the KTM-Cabidsing squad, fired a 70, even as first-round leader Jimmy Alanis bulldozed to a 75 to fall four strokes off the pace in the event being backed by Galleon by Odyssey Golf and Del Monte.

KTM-PCC's Sarah Abdon took charge in the ladies side of the event by carding a 73 for a three-stroke lead over teammate Sheryl Villanueva and local bet Riz Ribleza at the start of the Mindanao tournament organized by the Mindanao Golf Association of the Philippines.

Villanueva and Ribleza shot identical 76s while Bambi Ely Ann of KTM, stood in fourth with a 77 followed by Sandrine Bonquil, Ann Glen and Bridie Lozano of Del Monte.

Leonard Activanes, another member of the talented Del Monte team in the event, Philippine Airlines hotshot, shot a 71 to tie Alanis while Raymund Arevalo, also of KTM-PCC, posted 72 for the second straight day.

The top three players of the field from Mindanao along with the top two ladies will get free trips to the Philippine Amateurs slated April 12 to 17 at The Riviera in Silang, Cavite.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

Bids and Awards Committee

BID BULLETIN NO. 82
BAC Reference Nos. 2011-002

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby issues this Bid Bulletin to inform the public that the **Submission and Opening of Bids** for the supply and delivery of materials for the construction of additional steel enclosures for contested ballot boxes and storage areas at the Philippine Warehouse, Port Area **will be rescheduled on March 16, 2011 at 8 o'clock to 10 o clock in the morning and 10 o'clock in the morning, respectively, at the COMELEC Session Hall, 5th Floor, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila.**

For information and guidance of all prospective bidders.

ATTY. FERDINAND T. RAFANAN
Chairman

ON OFFICIAL LEAVE
ATTY. MICHAEL D. DEDMESA — ATTY. MARIA E. BLAS-PEREZ
Vice-Chairman — Member

ATTY. EPHRAIM S. BAGUIO — ATTY. ESTHER C. FERNANDEZ
Member — Member

Honoring absent friends, a living saint

BARE EYE

Beverly Trinidad

THAT WAS a game gathering to remember. Several officials were in attendance when the game, less its components around, leisurely playing fielding up in the Game Interval.

Dave Watson, Nellie Cobarbo and Tito Trade will be honored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, together with those who will receive awards for outstanding achievements in Philippine sports, during a gala night at the Manila Hotel tomorrow.

Working could be more fitting, considering their three wonderful colleagues had spent a lifetime of principled dedication to their craft, yet unlike successful athletes who periodically lend to all themselves, running and competing, in order to bring honors to our country.

. . .

Anyway, it's too late now but here's a suggestion to new officials: a mobile media/photographers Wally Santillan Jr. (who retired away last year) in honor of us.

Of course, the sportswriters among always realize that, who will be honored tomorrow—are not so unsung.

Incidents, belief to point and members friends, all in very quickly like you, with scores of his early donor consistently mentioned.

Nitik ko, antonio carmona—he was a classy, stylish basketball point guard—the basketball who could handsome dressed all his gifts to capital's many memorable moments in Philippine sports: usually the Year of Torneos, his favorites' athlete, with their automatic champions and quality, should be honored here

. . .

Another point doing about the PSA Awards is the exceptional being given to Eric Pelayo, the outstanding swimmer of the national football team, was summarily admitted and accepted as this latitude.

Pelayo did his thing behind the scenes, as soon as widely.

In fact, we still admired the Ateneo basketball records, you for a teenager only after the Philippines final hanged into the semifinals of the Asian Football Federation Football Cup.

But the selection panel did not have to be reminded. Pelayo's was a shining achievement for everybody to admire.

. . .

Maybe this award may be only this is one for proper honorees anyone else.

But let me report that the Philippine government has lost a wonder worker, a lovely newspaper who spend her lovely energies in dedication to sports rich, discovered, daily accomplished, mainly to ensure excellence.

Irene Valerian, who did social work under the Cano Foundation, operated from her home in San Marcelino, Zambales, where she worked after getting married over a decade ago.

"Adrienne always invoked God, her Make Sponsor, in her charity work.

"Be made a deal she hated pin-up for entertainment parties.

Unfortunately, she often had no time to friends in needs for help—because she could find more sponsors and leaders of charitable(s) solicited for big donations.

Valerian, indeed, had to swallow her pride to make true some efforts.

Of course, there's no way to summon here much she had done for unprivileged Filipinos, mainly her beloved sons, but her deeds were definitely tremendous.

"She's a living saint, she just moved from nowhere to offer help," said Miss Manila athlete Carmen Valerian Pelayo-Ateneo [in Lapu-Lapu's also] for moral support from Mactan.

Last heard of, Adrienne had broken up with the second-coming by Manny Garcia of the Society of Philippine Magicians in Australia.

She added, "Pete Rated, I am sure she [you know that I am leaving the Philippines for good with my children. I am flying back home [from Down Under soon."

As a farewell gesture, she bone said she sent Pete Rated-Garcia, as Rated Asia, to Dr. Eric Ash's Wednesday-date Foundation of the Philippines.

Another President Aquino not his Daisy fault, more has turned of to Irene!

Lapu Lapu City main Asian Beach Games host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAPU LAPU CITY—From Davis Cup host to organizer of the field of events in the 2013 Asian Games.

Local officials have yesterday announced that this coastal city has been chosen by the Philippine Olympic Committee as main host of the 2013 Asian Beach Games on the eve of the start of the Philippines Asian Davis Cup tie at the Thomasite Bay Resort and Spa.

City Councilor Henry Rubio said he and Mayor Jun Radaza had already discussed with POC chief Monico Puentevella details of staging the Asian Beach Games.

"We have the hotels, the hotels, amenities and the airport, which is no more than 15 minutes from every hotel," said Henry Rubio. "I think their biggest consideration is the security by the athletes which we can well provide."

Other venues seeking to co-host the ABG are Cebu City, Boracay and Bacolod City.

Puentevella has confirmed the POC agreement with Radaza and Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, adding that DOJ secretary Sheila Al Palma will sign the contract for the holding of the ABG host with all Presidential Agency.

Radaza also feared that the city will soon spend a P300-mark Mactan Export which could host events like the ISA.

Douthit set to acquire PH citizenship

By Jane Navarro

MARCUS DOUTHIT'S application for naturalization is still "hopes-into-line" in a month's time.

Dalgaing Sulaiheng Batchelled up Filipinos executive director Neil Eala said the 6-foot-10 American could automatically obtain Filipino citizenship after March 11, as 30 days after his application was forwarded to Presidente Aquino for signing.

Eala said there is no word yet if Aquino has affixed his signature on Douthit's naturalization.

"I will hope that he is about a week," said Eala, who still officially stepdown as SBP executive director on March 16.

"It will be home through, if the President signs the naturalization of Marcus."

If naturalized as a Filipino, Douthit will become eligible to join the latest Gilas national tenure in the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 15 to 25. The latest that hope the tournament gets an outright ticket to the 2012 London Olympics.

According to protocol, Malacañang must notify Antipolo City Rep. Roilbar Puno of the status of Douthit after the prescribed date.

Puno sponsored the bill seeking PH gains citizenship for Douthit in the House of Representatives. The chamber approved the bill.

The Senate have also sponsored and the bill was then submitted to Mr. Aquino for his signature.

Meanwhile, Eala will make an accomplishment report before the SBP board on March 15, the last act as executive director.

"I will still be a part of the SBP board and help the organization of the Fiba Championship Cup to be hosted by the country in 2013," said Eala, who is set to accept a job in consultant at San Miguel Corp.

Former PBA commissioner Jimmy Bosco, Philippine Sports Commissioner Chito Loyzaga, Philippine Olympic Committee chair Monico Puentevella and former PBC chair William "Butch" Franco are the leading candidates for the post to be succeeded by Eala.

Eala said Douthit's naturalization will not only benefit Smart Gilas but other national teams in the future as well.

The 29-year-old Douthit, who played out of Purdue and was selected 27th overall by the Los Lakers in the 2004 NBA Draft, has provided stability for Smart Gilas in the paint.

Douthit collected 2.6 rebounds and had 9 points in a dominant performance that saw the Nationals downlide Philippine Cup champion Talk N Text, 108-90 in the 59th Commissioner's Cup last week.

DOUTHIT Hopeful naturalization

Player trades jolt our imagination

ONE GAME AT A TIME

A TRADE is performance sports in which one league loses their jobs on transactions.

It's like a neighbor moving out after years of living on your street, or a friend it went bonding off to another job in the distant. There are mixed emotions and

[illegible] a bunch of thinking about normal issues to push under the rotation after change.

Blue his summer the Nets and his Miguel Beer trade last week. The last one of the deal was easier laughing enough. And it's top rookie picks last year, Nuggets Wallace, Rafael Mahomies and Ray Hazel later were things traded for him Hayward's Danney Wright, Hank Dennis and Joseph Tre.

Nets who just beginning to rebuild what has blighted and eager to erase the story of the losses of the past two fourth appearances.

The Cantonmentson's Cup conference had just started and teams were still settling in with the short tournament format and the capabilities of the players. The trade news was juicy and amazing to PBA fans and possible contenders for bits of the Filipinos and the Brothers.

PBA commissioner Chito Salud, who has displayed a keen understanding of the game and the league's culture, thumbed down the deal as a bodied one-sided by [illegible].

A second version was announced last Wednesday at the Garvin Automotive Autoseries, Sachac and Garvanza for Seigle and two Cyclone Pelta, Paul Asiedi and the biggest catch for the Tigerss, Jeoffrey Weakness.

This version was allowed by the commissioner, who has to approve all league trades.

...

Personally, I don't like to look just the night of trades, if any, because that's a routine between the teams involved. As a fan, I like to see instead how the trade impacts on the league ahead of it when the season ends.

So, as a popular phrase tells us, we have to "stay on" after this trade. We will now check on how the players involved will fit in their new teams and if their respective "systems" will benefit or not.

Jose Miguel gets an early version of how his team might look like in the new fifty years with a handful of former collegiate stars now playing together. Sentinel Jimenez, Jeffrey Hermosisima, Wes Hamadan, and Jackie make for a youthful unit that's strong on both ends of the floor.

He'll also have veterans in bench of veterans but they are no doubt impact players who can score in bunches quick.

Rebuilding head coach Bong Ramos will have to make interesting adjustments and to find a piece of music that all his experienced players can dance to.

This will not be the last PBA trade. There is definite presence for teams to win while staying within their salary caps and budgets.

There's also the need to keep everybody on a status happy and that's also why trades happen. If only there were more playing minutes to distribute and more than one ball on the court, life would be easier for PBA teams.

By TOP CHOICE
As Sana Ang Park

Mamiit leads Davis Cup assault vs Japan today

CECIL MAMIIT: Old guy in play first for Asia country

By Mars Anthony Reyes

LEPE-LAPE CITY—Top Filipino player Cecil Mamiit will lead off the Philippine Davis Cup campaign against Japan's No. 2 player as the Asia-Oceania first-round tie gets going today at the P11-million shell-clay courts inside Plantation Bay Spa and Resort here.

Lapu-Lapu Mayor Paz Radaza poked the 22-net-ball Filipino first team during yesterday's dinner at the city council hall, and the Japanese automatically drew Mamiit in the first match of the tie set at 10 a.m.

Total Hero, a Filipino-American like Mamiit, will take on Japanese No. 1 Go Soeda in the second singles.

"I guess the Philippines want to old guy to play first," said the 34-year-old Mamiit to set after Japanese non-playing captain Eiji Takeuchi said they would like their young ace to play in the opening singles.

Turning serious, the Cebuano Davidlez-Philippine Davis Cup team skipper said: "I can't deny the pressure that the Japanese are bringing, they have two hands, two eyes and we both know how to play tennis."

Hero Briboriales, the event's CEO, said tickets to the 2,000-seat venue were sold out. On Wednesday night the Davis Cup entourage were treated to a Sinulog-inspired welcome dinner complete with fireworks, fire dancers and a live band.

Without predicting the outcome, Mamiit said the tournament host last year's triumph against South Korea—where the Filipinos came back from 0-2 deficit to win the tie—"is still fuelling us. We'll ride on the momentum one point at a time, one match at a time."

ITF referee Wayne McKewen supervised the draw that was also attended by Philippine Tennis Association president Edwin Olivarez, his Japanese counterpart Koji Watanabe, former Wimbledon boy champion Jeremy Bates and city councilor Hero Radaza.

Japan also brought in 29-year-old doubles specialist Hiroki Kondo to replace Rachi Inglis.

Kondo and Takao Suzuki will play doubles at 12 noon tomorrow against Johnny Arcilla and Treat Huey, Mamiit and Chuey will reverse those outings in the reverse singles.

"Hopefully this weekend will be a make-or-break tie," said Bitoy Radaza, hoping that he city can host more top sports events in the future.

Meanwhile, who played against the likes of Wimbledon "Mighty Mite" Ampon in Davis Cup ties of yesteryear, noted that Japan and the Philippines have played 26 ties before. Tie is still tied at 13 apiece with 4 draws between the United States and Australia.

Olivarez said the draw favored the Filipinos. Also sponsoring the event are Okinawa Infrared Sauna Corporation, Marbella Hills and Smart Communications. Matches will be aired live over TV5's in-box 5%.

After the draw, the national team, managed by Total Hero Davidlez, went to the Plantation Bay Spa and Resort where Filipino fans, some coach more than a appearance day.

Pagulayan, Mazon down foes

PAGLOM

FILIPINOS ALEX Pagulayan and Daniel Mazon downed their respective rivals last Wednesday to advance to the second round of the 2011 Masters Billiards Championships at the Chesapeake Convention Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World 9-Ball champion, ousted Taiwan Billiard Federation president Edson Bridge, 8-2, while Mazon, the 2009 Guinness World Series champion stunned former World 9-ball champion Johnny Archer of the United States, 8-5.

Kimura, overall champion in the recent US Bar Table Event in Reno, Nevada, rallied to American Dennis Hatch, 8-2, and was subdued by Rafael Sanchez, 8-6.

In the third round of the winner's bracket, Pagulayan, who is being supported by billiards goddess Ariana "Pearl" Payne, tackles Americans Rodney Morris, who finished competitor from Tollefson, 8-0.

Mazon will meet former World 9-ball and 8-ball champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, who topped Hunter Lombardo of the US, 8-0.

Other winners include Raul Rin Lirol, who topped Gabe Owen, 8-6; Charlie Williams, who bested Josh Ulrich, 8-0; Chris Lim, who edged Eric Moon, 8-6; and Mike Isaacson, who dumped Jesse Engel, 8-2.

New badminton ranking series starts March 27

A BWF badminton ranking tournament, a four-leg international series aimed at determining the world rankings of players and also covering both tennis, will tour key continents with the country's leading players and rising stars expected to see action.

Dubbed the Philippine Badminton Ranking Series (PBRS), the circuit will feature the singles, doubles and mixed doubles events for the Under-13, Under-19 and Open categories. It will kick off March 27 to April 3 at Powerhouse in Makati with the second and third legs slated May 29 to June 4 in Bacolod and on July 31 to Aug. 6 in Davao, respectively.

The event, sponsored by the MVP Sports Foundation and Filipinas Resources Corp. and Trans-Asiatic, will culminate in the VP Grand Prix featuring open Olympic rankings on Oct. 22-29 in Manila.

Registration is ongoing at the PBRS office. For details, call 725-2160 or telefax 725-4662.

St. Scho sweeps Pool B, gains q'finals

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S College defeated Great Christian School, 25-15, 25-14, to complete its sweep of Pool B and earn a spot in the quarterfinal round in the Shakey's Girls' Volleyball League at the San Juan gym last weekend.

Adjudo Ong turned in a 10-hit performance, including four kills, while Bianca Cruz backed her up with 10 point and six attacks as the reigning NCAA champions rolled into the Last 8 of the event sponsored by Shakey's unlike 4-0 slate.

USC, using a 2-1 card, is tipped to join St. Scho in the quarters as it plays

SPORTS

Serena gets treatment for lung problem

NEW YORK—Serena Williams is receiving in a Los Angeles hospital after undergoing emergency treatment for a blood clot in one of her lungs, People magazine reported on Wednesday.

WILLIAMS

Officials from the Women's Tennis Association were unable to confirm the report but a representative for the 29-year-old Williams told the magazine she was admitted to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles on Monday after falling ill.

"Serena Williams underwent emergency treatment at Cedars for a pulmonary embolism which was discovered upon her return to LA. She had been in New York for doctor appointments for the ongoing issues with her foot."

Williams has not played competitively since winning last year's Wimbledon. Shortly after the victory she cut her foot on broken glass at a restaurant in Germany.

The American has had two operations on her foot since then and was preparing to return to training soon in the hope of making a comeback in Miami later this month. Reuters

SAN Antonio Spurs' Gary Neal attacks the hoop as Cleveland Cavaliers' Christian Eyenga tries to stop him.

Spurs first team to reach 50 wins

CLEVELAND—George Hill equaled a season high with 22 points as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 109-99, on Wednesday to become the first NBA team to reach 50 wins.

Tim Duncan scored 16 points and Tiago Splitter had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who bounced back from a 109-93 loss to Memphis on Tuesday.

Playing its second game since point guard Tony Parker with a calf injury, San Antonio also got 14 points from Gary Neal and 13 each from All-Star Manu Ginobili and Matt Bonner.

Ramon Sessions, making his first NBA start, had a career-high 23 points for Cleveland.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kevin Love had 20 points and 20 rebounds, and Andray Blatche's steal among three reserves in double figures scoring for the Timberwolves which beat the Detroit Pistons, 116-105.

Lazar Hayward scored a career-high 18 points and Anthony Tolliver added 13 for Minnesota, which has won three of its last five road games after a 2-21 start away from home.

Love's double-double was his 49th in a row, the longest streak since Moses Malone's 51 straight games in 1979-79. Love appeared to have his right thigh bare but played on.

Austin Daye scored a career-high 22 points for the Pistons.

At Atlanta, Al Horford matched his career high with 31 points, including a jam with 2.9 seconds remaining to give Atlanta its first lead of the game en route to an 88-86 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Horford had 16 rebounds and two steals, including one alley-oop dished from Jeff Teague that set up a jam by Joe Johnson for the final margin.

Lead-being had 15 points, Joakim Noah had 14 points and 12 rebounds and Derrick Rose had 12 points and 12 assists for Chicago.

At Washington, Stephen Curry scored 29 points as Golden State beat the Washington Wizards, 106-102, to snap a four-game losing streak and improve to 1-2 on their season high seven-game road trip.

Rookie Ellis scored 21 points and David Lee added nine points and 16 rebounds for the Warriors.

At Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 20 points with 12 rebounds, Paul Pierce had 16 and 13 and Rajon Rondo scored 16 with 15 assists as the Celtics posted their 47th win, 120-

The Suns played the last 17 minutes without Vince Carter and Channing Frye, who banged heads and left the game. AP

CHRIS BOSH (center, 42) scores in front of Toronto Raptors Quincy Acy (48), Andrea Bargnani (77) and Jerryd Bayless (10) during the first half of their game in Toronto on Wednesday night. AP

Azkals to use thermal gear in Ulan Bator

By Cassiff Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE football team will use technologically advanced, moisture gear that will help the Azkals cope with the sub-zero conditions in the second leg of its AFC Challenge Cup clash with Mongolia in Ulan Batar.

Mitsuru, official outfitter of the national team, is providing the Azkals with specially designed thermal gear similar to the ones being used by Japanese athletes in the Winter Olympics.

"We have been guaranteed by Mitsuru that the gear will be enough for our players to cope with the cold in Mongolia," said Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta during the ceremonial turnover of the equipment at the PFF office yesterday.

Mariel Sports general manager Paolo Gigolbiguan, whose firm is the exclusive distributor of Mitsuru, assured that the gear will keep the players warm.

"Without sounding technical, our Breathe Thermo fabric that the players will use will generates heat that our bodies generate during physical exertion," said Gigolbiguan.

The temperature in Ulan Batar was at -10 yesterday, but forecasts expects it to be around -1 to zero degrees during the match on March 23.

"With our gear, I think we can do better in Mongolia than in Bacolod," Araneta said, referring to the 2-0 victory here.

Meanwhile, Angel Guimaraes Rodriguez, a 6-foot-2 Spanish striker, has started training with the Azkals and could join the squad if the Azkals progress to Myanmar for the second round.

Davao hosts two big chess tournaments

By Roy Luarca

DAVAO CITY aims to bolster its reputation as a chess haven with the staging of two big tournaments—the Davao City Mayor Inday Sara Duterte 2011 National Age Group Championships and the National Junior—next month.

The age-group tournament will be held April 23 to 28 at the Gaisano Mall while the National Juniors is slated April 29 to May 3 at the NCCC Mall.

Age-group winners will represent the country in the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) age group tournament in Indonesia, on June 11 to 20.

The National Juniors, on the other hand, will serve as qualifier for the World Juniors in New Delhi, India, on Aug. 11 to 16.

The twin events are being organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, headed by President "Butch" Pichay in cooperation with the Davao City government.

NCFP executive director Phillip Ronin will serve as tournament director.

The age-group contest has been divided into 12 categories for girls and boys, with the youngest participants at 6 years old below and the oldest at 20 and below.

In the National Juniors boys and girls divisions, eligible players are those born on or after Jan. 1, 1991.

For inquiries, call or text Jaime Inlayan (0918-2641199), Willie Alaba (0929-2286219), Sherin Perez (0949-3760869) or e-mail ncfpsecretariat@yahoo.com.

More than 80 fights in Pasay derby today

MORE THAN 80 fights are featured in the "Eleventh 4-Cock Derby" which runs today at the Pasay City Cockpit. Prizes at stake are expected to reach to P800,000.

Breeders from PCC, Manila Cockpit, Las Piñas Coliseum, Polytech, MTC, Center Makati, Del Monte Cockpit, San Roque Cockpit Marikina and Paterno Cockpit will vie for the title, according to host Edgar Kuh.

Meanwhile, the Big Chicken Cockpit, scheduled on March 11 as the "3P Breederville 5-Cock Derby," which will be hosted by 3P Chicken Barbecue owner-up Eddie Bong Pineda.

PCC will also host the "Mikuni 5-Cock Derby" of Mayor Nokoro and Director on March 18 and the "888 Special Event 5-Cock Derby" of Tony Landa on March 25.

For inquiries, call 8521138 and 8947618.

IN THIS ISSUE
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- Petron to drop Treats /B8

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

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First Pacific eyes P59-B capex

Fund to cover PH infra, telco, mining interests

By Cleo C. Dumlao

THE HONG KONG-based First Pacific group plans to invest at least P59 billion in the Philippines this year through its publicly listed infrastructure, telecommunication and mining businesses.

First Pacific Co. Ltd. managing director Manuel V. Pangilinan yesterday said that the group-wide capital expenditures would include budgets for telecommunications unit Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (P54 billion), infrastructure holdings firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (P22 billion) and mining unit Philex Mining Corp. (P3 billion).

The budget does not include capital outlay for broadcasting unit TV5, Pangilinan said during a briefing on the 2010 financial results of MPIC (see related story on this page).

David Nichols, chief finance officer of MPIC, said half of MPIC's group-wide budget would be channeled to Manila Electric Co. Around P10 billion will go to water unit Maynilad Water Services and the rest will be earmarked for toll road unit Metro Pacific Tollways Corp.

Nichols said the budget would not include funds needed if the group were to acquire new hospitals, or start construction of Segment 9 of the North Luzon Expressway in the fourth quarter.

Meralco's P11-billion capital spending will go to the improvement of its services, MER president Jose Ma. Lim said.

At present, Meralco is studying the acquisition of unwound-ing distribution concessions and likewise bracing for its entry in power generation, Lim said.

Meralco plans to put up a 116-megawatt peaking plant, which will run on diesel and gas. It will go commercial by the second quarter of 2012.

Also, Pryce plans to close its mining a joint venture agreement covering a 300-MW coal plant, which may be completed by 2014 or 2015. A 600-MW add-mere plant is also under consideration, Lim said.

Apart from expanding its network of toll roads, MPIC also aims to further grow its chain of premium hospitals. But the capital spending budget does not include funds needed in case of new acquisitions opportunities.

MPIC's hospital group now comprises Makati Medical Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Metro Manila, Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod and Davao Doctor Hospital in Davao.

For Philex, Pangilinan said a budget of P3 billion had been set aside for the development of its Padcal mine in the Cordilleras. Part of the fund would also be used to explore

PAGE B2

For 'bloody year,' TV 5 spending set at P8B

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ASSOCIATED BROADCASTING Corp., operator of television network TV-5, will spend P8 billion this year to improve its facilities as it aims to be one of the country's major broadcasting companies.

Bulk of the fund will go to the construction of the company's new headquarters in Mandaluyong City, which will complement its current facility in Novaliches, Quezon City.

MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said 2011 would be a "bloody year" for the network.

"Our losses will peak this year," Pangilinan told reporters on Thursday, as the company continues to invest heavily to expand its reach and improve facilities.

Without revealing figures, Pangilinan said TV-5's revenue started to improve since the group took over the network in 2009.

MPIC was acquired in 2009 by MediaQuest Holdings, a unit of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Beneficial Trust Fund.

MediaQuest has interests in radio and print media, includ-

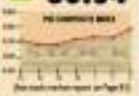
PAGE B2

INDICATORS

SAM MIGUEL'S Ramon Ang (right) rings the ceremonial bell as the Philippine Stock Exchange, which turns 81 in action 40 up 60.34 (PSE's final unit (See story on page B2).

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
March 3, 2011
43.365

STOCK MARKET
March 2, 2011
60.34



Stocks up on strong corporate earnings

SHARE PRICES yesterday rallied on expectations that 2011 would be another strong year for corporate earnings.
The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 60.34 points, or 1.8 percent, to finish at 2,834.26, showing strong support from domestic

DETAILS B2

Citigroup: Growth may be slower but decent in '11

By Michelle V. Ramos

CITIGROUP HAS upgraded its 2011 growth forecast for the Philippines, from 5.1% to 5.5 percent, saying that high interest rates are not expected to dampen the economy's expansion for the full year.

According to Citigroup, although the Philippines and its neighbors are facing hike in key rates, they have sufficient buffer to sustain decent growth this year.

"While the region is not yet void of the hawks and will need to continue tightening, we don't think the expected tightening scenarios are enough to materially dent growth at this juncture," the investment bank said in its latest research paper on selected Asian economies.

The Philippines and other emerging Asian economies, which are expected to sustain growth momentum that started last year, are now facing considerable inflationary pressures as increase in incomes have boosted demand.

Monetary authorities in the region may have to tighten key policy rates to avoid an inflation spiral, stemming from pressures exerted on consumer prices, economists said.

In the case of the Philippines, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has yet to raise its key policy rates, which have remained at historic lows since July 2009.

But the BSP has already implemented minor tightening acts, such as the reduction in the amount of funds allocated for reallocation banks.

Economists said tighter monetary policy could dampen demand, resulting in a slowdown of an economy's growth.

Citigroup believes that, al-

CITIGROUP, B2

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Intra-corporate disputes

MERE STOCKHOLDERS of corporations hinder even the election of directors, or minority stockholders demand accountability and transparency from management, the initial question they often ask is: Where can relief be sought? From the Securities and Exchange Commission? Or from the regular courts?

Eleven years after the enactment of the Securities Regulation Code (or Republic Act 8799), some business persons and lawyers are still at a loss on which body has jurisdiction over intra-corporate disputes.

For years, until the Code took effect in 2000, the power to hear and resolve these disputes was lodged with the SEC. Since then, that authority—which is considered judicial in nature—has been transferred to the regular courts.

Broadly stated, any conflict between or among stockholders or between or all of them and the corporation is considered intra-corporate.

In a recent case (Strategic Alliance Development Corp. vs. Star Infrastructure Development Corp., G.R. No. 187872, Mar. 17, 2010), the Supreme Court defined the elements of an intra-corporate dispute.

The distinction is significant because intra-corporate disputes are governed by a special order of procedure. If they do not fall within that classification, they will be considered civil as elsewhere has which a different set of rules apply.

Applied tests

In a nutshell, the case involves the stockholders of Strategic Alliance whose feud over control of the corporation led to a suit that wended its way to the trial court, Court of Appeals and, finally, the highest court.

Among the issues sought to be resolved was the true character of the case that went through the judicial labyrinth.

In its decision, the tribunal cited the standards it had used to pass upon intra-corporate disputes.

Initially, it applied the "relationship test" which states that if the conflict is between the corporation, partnership or association and one of the following—"the public;" or "its stockholders, partners, members or officers;" or the State as far as its franchise, permit or license to operate is concerned; or among the stockholders, partners or members themselves, the dispute is considered intra-corporate in character.

The test was "broad enough to cover all kinds of controversies between stockholders and corporations, and the traditional interpretation was to the effect that the relationship test limited to—distinction, qualification or any exception whatsoever."

Incidents

In a subsequent case, however, the tribunal decided to take a second look at this test and declared that "it is not the mere existence of an intra-corporate relationship that gives rise to an intra-corporate controversy."

The justices stated that "there is no legal sense in divorcing a controversy the relationship test from considering the nature of the action and the relief prayed for in the dispute."

With this explanation, the tribunal introduced the "nature of the controversy test" which states that the incidents of or circumstances behind that relationship should be taken into consideration to ascertain whether the controversy itself is intra-corporate.

The issues, "the controversy must not only be rooted in the existence of an intra-corporate relationship, but must as well pertain to the enforcement of the parties' correlative rights and obligations under the Corporation Code and the internal and intra-corporate regulatory rules of the entities.

"If the relationship and the rights and duties are entirely incidental to the controversy or if there still will be conflict even if the relationship does not exist, then no intra-corporate controversy exists."

This point must be illustrated in this manner: A stockholder sues in private capacity as a businessman, sells goods to the company. The latter fails to pay for the goods on its due date. The stockholder files a collection case against the company.

Although there is an intra-corporate relationship between the stockholder and the company, the dispute cannot be considered intra-corporate because it arises from a commercial transaction between the two parties and does not involve the rights of the stockholder under the Corporation Code.

Combination

With its decision in the Strategic Alliance case, the tribunal has laid down this rule: that "the combined application of the relationship test and the nature of the controversy test has, consequently, become the norm in determining whether a case is an intra-corporate controversy or is purely civil in character."

In other words, in the absence of clear-cut intra-corporate disputes or a civil case, the case proponents of these tests have to carefully review and evaluate before to come up with an accurate determination of the issues.

Failure to know the difference would not only aggravate the hopelessly clogged dockets of our courts, it could put the unsuspecting lawyer in the embarrassing situation of seeing his case dismissed on a technicality and making his client incur additional expense for re-filing the case.

Incidentally, after a lengthy discussion of the facts and circumstances which formed the basis for the intricacies of the case, the tribunal remanded the four-year-old (and still going) Strategic Alliance case to the lower court for further hearing.

(For feedback, please write to rpalileo@mailmet.com.ph.)

Learn why opportunities exist in every industry and how innovation can be introduced by different players in the same industry via stories before-and-case examples that will be shared!

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- How do you fight the Goliath in your industry and avoid being the next Goliath?
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Insurer's '10 NBI up 77%

ASA PHILIPPINES closed 2010 with a 77-percent jump in new business income (NBI) to P1.83 billion from P1.06 billion a year ago.

In 2009, Asa ranked No. 1 in new business income, surpassing life, while total premium income hit P2.9 billion.

ASA refers to the total amount of premiums collected from new policies sold in a given year.

"We tallied our distributors and sales force to 'close the loop.' We increased its customer hotline as a basis for providing real world-based financial advice," says Nina Hemmen, chairman of ASA Philippines.

"Even the Lion" is a campaign launched by ASA's head honcho aimed at making customers realize that they can enjoy insurance benefits while alive, and not after death, through proper financial planning.

MetroPac profit jumps 25% to ₱2.9B

Strong power, tollway, power distribution businesses

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. posted a 25-percent jump in its consolidated net income (NCI) to ₱2.9 billion last year, on robust power, banking and food businesses.

In the fourth quarter alone, the consolidated net profit of the Ayala-led company also...rebuilt recently joined the slowly watched MSCI Global Value index...surged by 327 percent to ₱6 billion.

The power business (Manila Power) accounted for 90 percent of the fourth quarter bottom line, followed by banking (Union Bank of the Philippines and City Savings Bank) and food (Philippine Foods Corp.), which contributed 11 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

For the fourth quarter, AEV incurred a non-recurring gain of ₱376 million versus a ₱416 million non-recurring gain for the same period in 2009 as it booked a ₱456-million loss on the sale of 40-MW Transphil. The non-recurring loss was off-set by a 974-million non-recurring gain arising from the revaluation of consolidated dollar-denominated loans and placements, adjusting for their one-peso, ₱43's more net income for the quarter grew by 168 percent to ₱5.4 billion from a year ago.

On a full-year basis, the consolidated net income of ₱21.9 billion translated to a ₱5.96 in earnings per share for 2010. The MPIC's net income for the quarter grew by 168 percent to ₱5.4 billion from a year ago.

On a full-year basis, the consolidated net income of ₱21.9 billion translated to a ₱5.96 in earnings per share for 2010. The MPIC's power business still accounted for biggest share at 85 percent of full-year earnings.

Excluding non-recurring items for the half year, AEV's core earnings amounted to ₱21.8 billion, up by 19% percent from a year ago. Doris C. Dumlao

MPIC delivers healthy and sustainable returns to shareholders," MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said. "MPIC is well-poised to pursue further infrastructure opportunities, to improve operational and service efficiencies and help boost the economy."

With the 88-percent growth in core net income for 2010, MPIC declared a final cash dividend for the year of 1.58 centavos per share. Bringing the total dividend for 2010 to 2.5 centavos per share.

Like said shareholders could expect the same amount of dividends this year.

The dividends will increase in the following years, he said, although the four next five years, heavy capital expenditure would constrain bigger increases.

Manila's core net income in 2010 rose to ₱4.81 billion from ₱3.3 billion a year ago, due to higher tolled volumes and tariffs. Core cash flows as measured by earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) hit ₱7.93 billion.

Manila's also grew its core net income by 71 percent to ₱22.16 billion as electricity sales volumes went up by 10 percent, driven by strong growth from all services led by the industrial sector. Core cash flow amounted to ₱16.48 billion.

Pure Foods sees sales hitting P90B, income doubling

LOCAL FOOD giant San Miguel Pure Foods Co. expects net profit to rise by a double-digit rate this year on the back of an expansion in sales revenue to at least ₱90.1 billion from about ₱80.06 billion last year.

SMPFC, which listed yesterday P10 billion worth of new common preferred shares, sees opportunities to generate growth from the expansion of both production and distribution capabilities.

"San Miguel Pure Foods is growing. It is a well-run and stable company and it will continue to grow. Recent company San Miguel will continue to support its expansion as we believe in the future of the food business," said Ramon Ang, president of SMPFC's parent firm San Miguel.

SMPFC president Francisco Alejo III said the company would likely report good 2010 results which should be followed this year by a double-digit growth in revenue, net profit and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

"We think that there are opportunities especially in geographical expansion, by making our products more available to more stores in more areas. We think, for example, that there are more distribution opportunities not only for canned but also for dairy products," Alejo said.

Asked whether the company expects to hit its fund by the capacity in global oil prices, Alejo said: "Admittedly, prices of oil increase and we may not be able to completely pass on the cost as we try to stimulate demand, but there remains opportunity to increase revenue and profit through expansion and innovation, by introducing new products."

The rise in oil prices has minimal direct impact on SMPFC, the officials said, as imported oil accounted for only a small share in its production and input costs.

For this year, SMPFC has set aside ₱2 billion for capital spending as it aims to expand its poultry, hog and processed meats businesses.

If and when needed to join parent San Miguel's infrastructure ventures, Alejo said SMPFC could use fresh funds on its own.

"We're looking at infrastructure because of the (higher) returns but San Miguel will continue to support our Food businesses," he said. Doris C. Dumlao

SMC readies follow-on offering

CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. has mandated an army of banks and investment houses to arrange a follow-on public equity offering by the second quarter, which is next weakening its public float.

In a briefing yesterday, San Miguel president Ramon Ang said the offering of a mix of primary and secondary shares would be "call based" to market opportunities, when asked whether the company was still keen on selling to the public up to one billion shares.

"There are nine banks mandated by San Miguel to arrange the offering, headed Chartered, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs and UBS are the Fin-Foreign underwriters while the local underwriters are ATR KimEng Capital, BDO Capital and SB Capital, said San Miguel treasurer Sergio Ortiz-Luis. Jaime Sorreties is a co-bookrunner.

"We hope to do it in the second quarter," Ang said in a briefing following the listing of the preferred shares issued by San Miguel Pure Foods Co. yesterday.

If market conditions were not too good, the SMPFC's parent would opt to defer offering or scale down the offer size. He said San Miguel did not want retail investors ending up with stocks whose prices would fall after listing.

Across the group, Ang said shares buyback would be implemented if and when needed to protect shareholders from adverse market investors.

It was earlier reported that San Miguel was planning to sell shares at a price range of ₱500 to ₱550 per share. Apart from raising fresh funds from the sale of primary shares as part of the total equity offering, San Miguel hopes to widen its public float to 20 percent from 8.1 percent at present.

San Miguel chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino said the conglomerate had yet to determine how many shares to sell or the proportion of shares to be offered to the foreign market.

In the meantime, Ang said a consortium of underwriting among San Miguel, Indonesian conglomerate Gilda Linmico Gong Hersanto (Gito) and Star Infinite Corp. were now being finalized to pool for equity-based operations. Such an agreement would be signed within the next 30 days, he said.

San Miguel earlier disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange an intention to forge a three-way partnership with Indonesian firm Gito and Star to merge their Philippine tollway interests to create a single entity with greater financial muscle to seek public private partnership deals on tollway projects. Ang said San Miguel would likely be the single largest stockholder in the consolidated entity. Jerick C. Dumlao

AEV bottom line up 163%

ABOITIZ EQUITY Ventures has reported a hefty 163-percent increase in its consolidated net income to ₱21.9 billion last year on robust power, banking and food businesses.

In the fourth quarter alone, the consolidated net profit of the Aboitiz-led company also...rebuilt recently joined the slowly watched MSCI Global Value index...surged by 327 percent to ₱6 billion.

The power business (Manila Power) accounted for 90 percent of the fourth quarter bottom line, followed by banking (Union Bank of the Philippines and City Savings Bank) and food (Philippine Foods Corp.), which contributed 11 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

For the fourth quarter, AEV incurred a non-recurring gain of ₱376 million versus a ₱416 million non-recurring gain for the same period in 2009 as it booked a ₱456-million loss on the sale of 40-MW Transphil. The non-recurring loss was off-set by a 974-million non-recurring gain arising from the revaluation of consolidated dollar-denominated loans and placements, adjusting for their one-peso, ₱43's more net income for the quarter grew by 168 percent to ₱5.4 billion from a year ago.

On a full-year basis, the consolidated net income of ₱21.9 billion translated to a ₱5.96 in earnings per share for 2010. The MPIC's net income for the quarter grew by 168 percent to ₱5.4 billion from a year ago. Doris C. Dumlao

Gov't plans to sell Samurai bonds longer than 10 years

THE PHILIPPINES may go back to the Japanese debt market as early as April, with the government eyeing to be the first Asian country to issue a Samurai bond longer than 10 years, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima yesterday said.

Manila is also considering a third bond currency global bond and dollar bond sales to complete its $6.5-billion foreign financing needs this year.

"The government can do the Samurai as early as April, if we decide so," Purisima told reporters.

"Which (instrument) we will use will depend on the conditions at that time, but I can tell you that we are looking at the Samurai, we are looking at the dollar, and GFN (global peso note) as well."

The Samurai market is the Manila peso-denominated bond sold by foreign issuers which would add its previous placement last year when the country returned to the Japanese debt market after nine years.

The Philippines is known to be among the most conservative countries in selling local currency debt in years itself off rather than foreign currency debt.

It was the first Asian sovereign issuer of local currency global bonds, going to the market twice last year in September 2010 and January this year to sell global peso bonds.

The Philippines raised $1.25 billion from its last offer of global peso bonds in January.

Manila borrows heavily from local and foreign sources to offset weak revenues and fund its budget deficit expected to narrow to ₱296 billion, or 3.2 percent of GDP, this year, down from an expected 3.5 percent in 2010.

This year, it is targeting peso borrowings of ₱394.3 billion, of which 75 percent or ₱295.3 billion, will be raised from the local bond market.

Manila raised ₱209 billion from the sale of domestic retail treasury bonds which ended this week, which means more money on its borrowing for the rest of the year, Purisima said.

"The balance of the amount we will borrow is much less now," he said. Reuters

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Stocks up on strong corporate earnings

From page B1

investors.

The market interest enough strength to break past a psychological barrier at 5,000.

"The market has gone down far enough so that it now stands there relatively cheap to the rest of the world," said Joseph Brazas of Eagle Equities Inc., which beat 5,800 could be the next upside barrier to be tested by the market.

All counters rose, but the services, holding firms and property counters benefited the most from the upswing, surging by 3.4 percent, 2 percent and 1.44 percent, respectively.

Banks turnover improved by ₱9.3 billion from the previous day's ₱3.8 billion. There were three advances for every single decline.

On third losers, the Dow Jones Industrial Index rose by 0.78 points, or 0.07 percent, to 12,006.80. Doris C. Dumlao

First Pacific eyes P59-B capex

From page B1

new areas.

Another ₱1.7 billion will be spent for new mines in Bulawan and Ilibangan, Pangilinan said.

"Philex is looking at a number of existing mines ... That will go anywhere from years from today, we're looking at existing gold mines ... [where] profits may be enhanced in the next three years," Pangilinan said.

Philex is in talks with the group of mining magnate Felipe Yap for a joint venture to develop Manila Mining's Bulawan project in Masbate.

For 'bloody year,' TV 5 spending set at P8B

From page B1

ing a small stake in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"We're very happy with the performance of the network," Pangilinan said, noting that TV 5's ratings and revenue have been steadily improving.

This year's capital expenditures of ₱8 billion will be the highest in the company's history in the next four to five years. TV 5 expects to earn strong profit.

Earlier this year, TV 5 said it would launch its beef up in news gathering capability and allow it to compete with leading networks GMA Network Inc. and ABS-CBN Corp.

Citing industry estimates, TV 5 president and CEO Ray Espinosa said local companies could spend around ₱30 billion for advertising this year. TV 5 plans to cache at least 18 percent of that total.

Citigroup...

From page B1

through the Philippines and other countries in the region still experience slower growth this year, expansion will remain decent, pegging the regional growth average at 5.5 percent.

BSP officials said the country can only accept a recession in 2009, when the global turmoil touched its peak, because of the low interest rates.

But in interest rates are meant to boost the country's growth in the aftermath of a global financial crisis.

BSP officials said the country can only accept a recession in 2009, when the global turmoil touched its peak, because of the low interest rates.

But in interest rates are meant to boost the country's growth in the aftermath of a global financial crisis.

However, economists said, could force the central bank to raise its key rates if it hoped to prevent the economy from overheating.

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rachel.mercado@yahoo.com

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Mar. 2, 2011	Feb. 23, 2011
Asset Fund - Peso	1.6618	1.6713
Managed Fund - Peso	2.0078	2.0109
Growth Fund - Peso	2.1309	2.1397
Equity Fund - Peso	1.7153	1.7184
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4378	1.4380
Secured Return Fund -	1.2000	1.2000
Secured Return Fund II	1.2000	1.2000
Protector Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000

Minute Maid Pulpy joins growing roster of billion dollar brands for The Coca-Cola Company

Minute Maid Pulpy™, introduced in China in 2000, crossed $1 billion in annual retail sales in just five years.

"The Coca-Cola Company has welcomed the addition of Minute Maid Pulpy™ to its roster of beverage brands that have achieved global sales of more than $1 billion. Bringing the number of billion dollar brands in the Company's portfolio to 18, Minute Maid Pulpy™ is the latest in a long line of global success stories that has set sales records every five years.

The success of Minute Maid Pulpy marks the first time that a brand of The Coca-Cola Company, Minute Maid Pulpy™ has reached the billion dollar mark outside of its home market. Minute Maid Pulpy was originally introduced exclusively in China in 2000, and is now among the premier juice drink brands in 16 geographies across three continents including Indonesia, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

In 2010, Pulpy was introduced in Algeria, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam. In addition, Pulpy was introduced in Mexico as a Mini Pulpy drink for kids and Pulpy Nectar, a nectar drink, as well as Pilon Pulpy. This brand is poised for further global expansion in 2011.

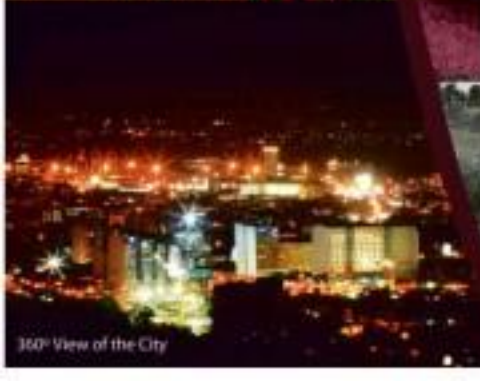
"The addition of Minute Maid Pulpy to our expanding list of billion dollar brands is a testament to the Company's ability to leverage the strength of our global system to bring consumers the refreshing beverages they want, when and where they want them," said Joseph Tripodi, Chief Marketing and Commercial Leadership Officer, The Coca-Cola Company. "The rapid scalability of the Pulpy brand is developing markets is critical to the continued growth of the global portfolio of The Coca-Cola Company. The development of China's Hunan Province, where Pulpy is now growing share in a key urban market, is a testament to the ability of our system to rapidly scale innovation from any part of the world."

The Coca-Cola Company's Minute Maid Pulpy beverages are now available in ten dollar brand within the Company's juice and juice drink portfolio. Globally, The Company's juice portfolio includes Minute Maid juices and juice drinks.

"The Philippines is very happy and proud to be associated in the success of the Minute Maid brand. And we wish to thank the Filipino consumers for their continuing support," said Coca-Cola Philippines Marketing Director Noemi Reyes.

The Coca-Cola System's Minute Maid brand in 2007 and today it is the number one juice drink brand in the market" Reyes added.

Minute Maid Pulpy is a nationally refreshing juice drink with real fruit juice and pulp. Minute Maid Pulpy is available in Orange, Pineapple and Guava. Minute Maid Pulpy is available in a range of other flavors in different markets, such as Lemon, Tropical, Mango/Orange, Red Grapefruit and Mixed Apple.



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Flour prices to continue to rise

By Abigail L. Ho

PRICES of flour, already less than P1.00 shy of the peak price recorded in 2008, are expected to further increase in the coming months, especially if the Middle East crisis drags and oil prices continue to escalate.

In an interview yesterday, Philippine Association of Flour Millers Inc. (Philmill) executive director Nic Flores said wheat prices were now showing signs of stabilization. "Rates remained high, however, and had the potential of rising even more amid supply-jitteriness about oil supply.

"World Cerbeat prices have somehow stabilized at the $$320-$$340 per bushel range. This is a positive sign that the market sees a resistance level at the $$400 level," he said. "But we should look at the price of crude oil. If this continues to rise due to supply fears because of the problems in the Middle East, commodity prices will also move up."

According to Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya, a 25-kilogram bag of flour now sells for around P900 to the retail level and P980 on sell. But Philippine Baking Industry Group president Walter Co said some of the bakers' new flour supply was already bought at around P800, a bag—just P50 away from the peak price of P850 registered in mid-2008.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo had said flour prices could even breach the P1,000-a-bag level, depending on how would wheat prices would behave in the next two months, Co agreed.

"We hope that local prices would not reach the 2008 level of P980 per bag as that would dampen consumption," Flores said.

However, in an interview over dzIQ, he said local flour prices could still rise.

"We do not know until when [prices] will rise. This is not the end. I mean[what] as prices of wheat in the world market are still increasing. The next wheat harvest won't be until October. We'll see what happens then," he said.

"If the harvest is good, then prices of wheat in the world markets will go down. If lower priced wheat becomes available by October, we'll feel the impact by December because it takes three months for the wheat to get here and for it to be processed into flour," he added.

Right now, the problem for many with prices than supply.

"Locally, supply of flour is stable and ensured. We have enough raw materials in the pipeline," Flores said.

Bakers recently advised the Department of Trade and Industry that they would raise prices of loaf bread by P2 a loaf and of a 10-piece pack of pan de sal by P1.

They attributed the move mostly to the significant increase in flour prices.

MPIC targets 80% stake in SLEx

Pangilinan-led company in talks with MTD Capital Berhad

By Paolo G. Montecillo

INFRASTRUCTURE GIANT Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) is in talks with Malaysia's MTD Capital Berhad for the acquisition of the latter's 60-percent stake in South Luzon Expressway (SLEx).

MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan on Thursday said the offer to acquire the government's 29-percent stake in SLEx, which is the gateway from Metro Manila to key provinces such as Laguna and Batangas, has apparently been ignored.

Then, the group has agreed to discuss a possible acquisition of an 80-percent stake in SLEx concessionaire South Luzon Tollway Corp. (SLTC) from its Malaysian partner.

"We are always in talks with all the shareholders ... We have made it known to MTD that we are interested. We would like to have at least a significant minority share in SLEx," said MPIC president and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim.

MPIC had offered to buy the government's stake, held by state-run Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC), at SLEx reportedly for P4.65 billion.

But then the offer was made during the previous administration, the deal has been put under review. The government is now expected to bid out the stake instead of outrightly negotiated sale.

MPIC, through unit Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., already controls North Luzon Expressway (NLEx). The company also has the rights to operate and develop the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

Owning the rights to SLEx will give the group control over the country's major toll roads and the two major entry points into Metro Manila from both the northern and southern parts of Luzon.

In the meantime, the group said it was also in talks with national groups to bid for stake in Skyway, a road that MTCC corporate unit San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is also looking to acquire. MPIC currently has less than 5 percent in Skyway.

Also, Pangilinan's group had signed deals with several entities that would give MPIC a significant stake in the Metro Rail Transit line along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa).

In a disclosure, Anglo Philippines Holdings Corp. said it had agreed in principle to the terms of the acquisition by MPIC of the shares owned by the Fonacot in MRT Holdings Inc.

MR. QUICKIE EARNS FOR CHARITY THROUGH KASCASH

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's KasCASH Instant Lotto Tickets partners with Mr. Quickie

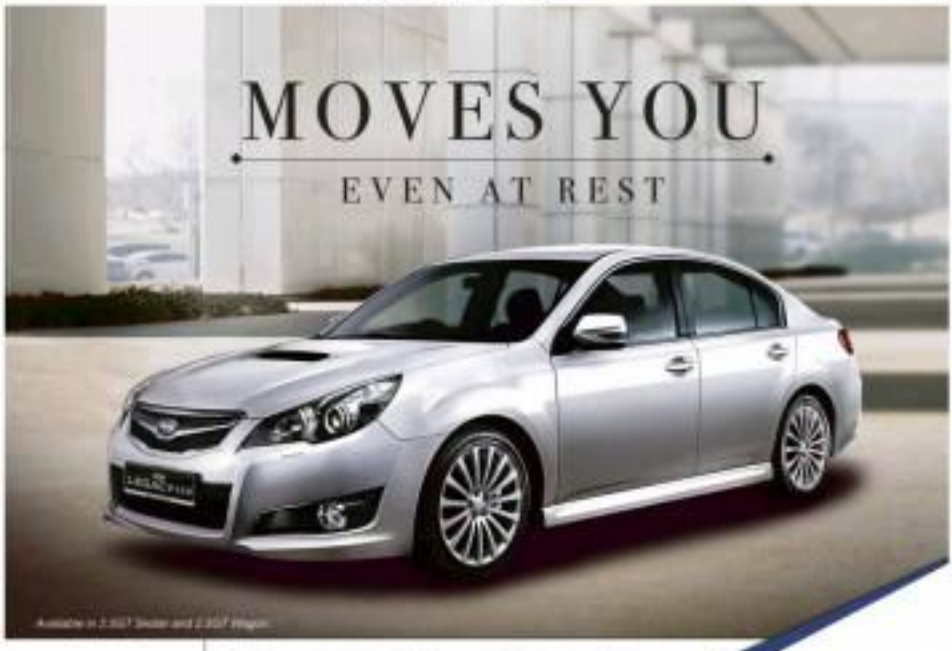
(From L-R) Wenie Rodriguez, Ben Castillo of PCSO, Gerilyn Pascual for Mr. Quickie, Rudy Ayalan and Ana Margarita of Mr. Quickie

MAKATI CITY, Feb. 1—The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Marketing Corporation and Mr. Quickie signed a Memorandum of Agreement held on Monday, March 28 to seal their newly formed partnership as a re-seller of Kabayan Instant Lotto Tickets. More than 100 Mr. Quickie outlets are scattered to have a display of Kabayan for sale this month.

"The establishment of partnerships like this enable PCSO and PMCC to serve a greater number of patrons by making them available in malls and areas that have high human traffic, therefore, reaching its potential market. Sales proceeds of Kabayan Instant Lotto tickets are used as PCSO charity funds.

Likewise, Quickie offers limited re-seller's job because Kascash for Kabayan Lotto tickets and get instant cashback from those games. First, Kascash tickets are sold at a discounted affordable price per booklet. Second, there is no cashback on re-seller's cards at a full-valid price for instant cashback. Second, KasCash distributors have an additional Sahara Prize from selling winning tickets of P10,000 and above. Interested distributors and re-sellers can visit the PCSO Sales Office at PCSO Secretariat Bldg. or call 8924-0758 or 8925-5114 for more details.

If you'd like more information about re-sellership and franchise, interested fans can call the Fonacot at 631-7144/8926 or email at ag_pascual@yahoo.com.



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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
(Calabarzon)
(Regional Office and Provincial Extension Units)

March 4, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/individuals have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
1.	ARKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. (Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna)	Mr. Seo-Kwan Kim / Korean	Director – Management Support
2.	ASAHI EFFINE MACHINE SERIC, INC. (FPT, Carmona, Cavite)	Mr. Kazuhiro Nagaoka / Japanese	General Manager for Production
3.	BYLINA RAMEN, INC. (F. Pelaez de Dia Road, Commercial Center & Bldg., San Antonio, De Ayala Cty.)	Ms. Akiko Ishihara / Japanese	Purchasing Manager
4.	BYLINA RAMEN, INC. (F. Pelaez de Dia Road, Commercial Center & Bldg., San Antonio, De Ayala Cty.)	Mr. Hiromi Nakamoto / Japanese	F & B Manager
5.	LAGUNA METTE CORPORATION (Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna)	Mr. Yoshitaka Kobashi / Japanese	President
6.	S & S PHILIPPINES INC. (CEZ, Rosario, Cavite)	Mr. Kyungcheol Kim / Korean	Company Director
7.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. (CEZ, Rosario, Cavite)	Mr. Kenji Hashimoto / Japanese	Interior Coordinator Planning
8.	ALLTECH TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. (Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna)	Mr. Wachira Boonsiri / Thai	Process Engineer
9.	SHOWA METRO PLASTICS INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (MPIC CEZ, Rojo, Rosario, Cavite)	Mr. Satoru Sugiyama / Japanese	Vice President
10.	ARTSTORE MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES, INC. (FPIP Brgy. Ibo Ampalaca, Sto. Tomas, Batangas)	Mr. Atsumori Hirano / Japanese	Treasurer – Administration Division
11.	TAIPAN PROJECT HOUSE (Block, Inc. (Nuevo Viring Compound, Brgy. Canlo, Carmona, Cavite)	Mr. Lianhua Yan / Chinese	Production Supervisor
12.	PHILIPPINE OSHIMA TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION (CEZ, Rosario, Cavite)	Mr. Sumio Fujimoto / Japanese	President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, DR., CESO III
Regional Director

PSI March 4, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE
Talisay City, Negros Occidental
Telefax Nos. (034) 4674484, (034) 7104044

INVITATION TO BID
CHMSC 11-010-022

1. The Carlos Hilado Memorial State College, through the Corporate Budget for the contract/s for is approaching the governing Board intends to apply the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,400,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the contract (ABC) in payments for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Van, fully equipped in accordance with RA 9184 and its corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
2. The Carlos Hilado Memorial State College now invites bids for the procurement of a Service Van 300 model, six wheeler, locally manufactured body, engine from Japan 6 engine displacement not exceeding 4200cc), platform of chassis is 6 meters body (20 days delivery) with 14 feet by 7 feet Aluminum Closed Van body with Lifter Gate, 2 doors at the rear and 1 door at the side, air conditioner unit, 2 fans, 6 tires, 1 spare tire, 1 set engine tools, 1 set jack handle, 1 set wheel wrench, 1 fire extinguisher, 1 first aid kit, 1 set reflectorized triangle, 1 set tire chains, 1 set mud flaps, 1 set rear bumper guard, 1 set rear view mirror, 1 set side view mirror, 1 set rear view mirror, 1 set rear view mirror, 1 set rear

"I am the resurrection and life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
And whoever believes Me will never die." – John 11:25, 26

God has called home our beloved mother

LOURDES GARCIA CASTEL

February 11, 1912 – March 01, 2011
of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

She joins her husband **Ernesto**, and angels **Ma. Magdalena**, **Nanette** and **Lourdesita** in heaven.

Her children **Edith**, **Cynthia** and **Lani** and **Ed Whittinghill**, together with **Melanie**, **Lynie** and **Anabelle** request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel A, North Wing, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 06 March 2011 at 10:00 a.m. after the Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

PATRICIO PINEDA JAVIER

of Cimarron, Batangas and Alfonso, Cavite

Former Senior Partner
SyCip, Gorres, Velayo & Co. (SGV & Co)

Now peacefully rest in the Peace and Goodness of our Lord on March 1, 2011 at the age of 91

Devoted husband to Gregoria Marquez Javier (†);

loving father to Orlando and Zobra Javier; Linda and Philip de Jesus; Isabel and Ramon Reyes; Apollo Javier (†); Leonito and Tomas Ancheta; and Rommel and Jhoanna Javier;

Admirable grandfather to Robert Javier, Patrick Javier, and Nadine and husband Arti Shah; Allan and wife Marites de Jesus; Cristine and husband Melvyn Angeles; Abigail Reyes, Amerhyst and husband Corey Taylor, and Robert John Reyes; Carlos Briones, Julius and wife Geronica Ancheta, Miguel Ancheta, Patrick Ancheta and Anna Criselda Ancheta;

Darling great grandfather to Amila and Mimi Shah; Patricia, Paola and Nicole de Jesus; Trey and Vince Angeles; and Arden Grace Taylor.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their family residence at Alfonso, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at the Alfonso Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish.

"Don't grieve for me, for I am free
I am following the path God laid for me
I left my work of love and when with me
God wanted me to rest, He set me free."

Our Dearly Beloved TATAY

JOSE LIRIO REYES

joined his Creator and his beloved wife BEATRIZ BALMACEDA on the 28th of February 2011

He is survived by his children: Lina & Winston, Annette & Gerry, Cynthia & Art, Joel & Nina, grandchildren: Sara, Carla, Kristine, Barry, Claudine, Kim, Valerie and Wesley, and great grandchild: Stephen, request the prayerful readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C, Christ the King Church, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Final Mass will be held at Christ the King Church on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 7:00 a.m.

Last viewing is to be held at Rizal Memorial Chapel, Calamba, Laguna, before the burial at 11:00 a.m.

For other details you may call 09.11.1.1.1.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For you are at my side,
your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

More Classifieds on page
COMELEC
A28

"Jesus' family left to be present with the Lord." – Matthew 12

"Eternal life is yours now, O Lord ... And the perpetual light shine upon him." – John 11:25

John Zhusen Santillano Alagao

Proudly joined the Lord on February 27, 2011 at the age of 27.

His loving parents: Hilbert G. Bobis, siblings: Edna-Jessica, Ushay and C.J. and nephew Mark,
relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal happiness in heaven.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
FREE WAKE DECORATION

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ENGR. GREGORIA CASTILLO SANTOS

April 4, 1925-January 24, 2011

express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all our friends, business partners and relatives who offered prayers, kept vigil, sent flowers, food, their wholehearted support and messages of sympathy, attended the funeral rites or who in one way or another condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

From her loving husband, Atty. Rodolfo M. Santos

Children and in-laws, grandchildren and great grand-child

Rodolfo Santos Jr. and Mary Anne Lumbao,
Hazel and Jasmine

Dante Santos and Maria Flora De los Reyes,
Angelo Nino and Grace
and great grand child, Jacob
Renato Rodolfo and Adrian Christopher

Dr. Michael and Dr. Celeste Sabornay,
Matthew and Marinela

Dr. Anthony and Dr. Nelda Malacaman
Alyssa and Ashley

Her surviving sisters, sisters in law, brothers in law, nephews and nieces and all the persons who have made her life more pleasant and happy.

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

SM executives Ben Reed Rivera from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines during the recent 46th Anvil Awards ceremonies at the Shangri-La EDSA Plaza Hotel. These included two Awards of Excellence for SM Prime Holdings' SM Cares Program on Disability Affairs and Ed Garcia-Manila, as well as Awards of Merit for SM Prime's We Believe in the City and Eco Bag programs, and SM's My City, My SM campaign.

SM Prime Holdings President Mr. Hans T. Sy (fifth from the left) receives the award from Public Relations Society of the Philippines Chairperson Mr. Jesus Enrique (second from the left) and PRSP Jr. Pres. Alec Lacson (third from the left). Also shown in the photo as a PRSP President Annie Garcia (seventh from the left) and (L-R) SM SDMC VP- Ice Operations Ms. Marian Tee and Mr. Ben Platon, SM HVP for Marketing Communications Ms. Millie Dizon, SCDC Regional Operations Manager Gia Sibala, SM AVP for Marketing Ms. Baby Ann Reyes, SCDC Regional Operations Manager Ms. Aimee Bocard, SM City North EDSA Asst. Mall Manager Mr. Mardsay Angeles, SCDC Arch. Niño Garcia and SM VP for Leasing Ms. Zaha Chua together with other SM Committee members.

BUSINESS

Petron to drop Treats

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING OIL refiner Petron Corp. is ready to give up its Treats retail store chain in favor of entire company San Miguel Pure Foods Co.

"The idea is for Petron to concentrate on oil business and Route Treats (store chain) to be handled by them (SMPFC)," said Ramon Ang, vice chair of Petron and president of the oil firm's parent firm, San Miguel Corp.

Ang said that Petron has 1,000 gas stations across the country of which 500 were built in the last two years. These gas stations, he said, would be leveraged to put up a network of outlets for SMPFC.

"Initially, SMPFC will utilize 25 big gas stations selling Magnolia products for distribution," Ang said.

Eventually, they can take over our Treats... As soon as they are ready, we'll just hand it over to them," Ang said.

Of Petron's nationwide network, about 60 have chose convenience stores under the brand "Treats."

Ang said there were other gas stations with potential to host such stores.

When SMPFC takes over Petron's Treats, Ang said it wouldn't mean that only its products would be carried by the stores. He said the stores would still carry products of other companies.

"There's a good fit between our FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) and Treats," said SMPFC president Francisco Alejo III. "Considering it's part of the San Miguel family we can maximize the fit," he said.

Meanwhile, Ang said Petron, like other oil refiners, was wary about the risks on global crude supply arising from the social unrest in Middle East North Africa.

"If you're an oil company you want to see stable crude prices. At the moment, we have a problem. Are you going to buy oil today or wait till price drops? Of course, the inventory will go down. But if we see build inventory and price goes down, it's not good," Ang said.

During the last global commodity upswing in 2008, Ang noted that Petron had lost so much money due to the spike in the cost of crude imports.

"The inventory of a refinery has a high carrying cost. The problem today is the supply. It's not only the price. What's worse is if we run out of supply, we don't know that the conflict in the Middle East ends so we won't run out of supply," he said.

Filipinos first, please

By Erwin M. Endozo

COMMENTARY

I DO not know whether it is the last vestiges of colonial mentality or exaggerated appreciation of our people's suffering which are dictated some influential lawmakers to set the wrong legislation priorities.

Whatever the reason, lawmakers are now giving more importance in complying with the Revised Kyoto Convention Codex (which is supposed to give us international goodwill from some countries) over the Anti-Smuggling Bill (which addresses a critical national issue).

Good news

Last March 2, the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways and Means conducted a hearing on the new Smuggling Bill (NSB) and the Customs and Tariff Modernization Act (CTMA). The CTMA seeks to improve the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

In the Feb. 9 Congressional hearing, Agusan Agriculture (AA) expressed its strong opposition to the proposed passage of the ASB and the CTMA. AA warned that this would once again delay the passing of the ASB, which is still being discussed after six years and two Congresses. Passing a separate measure and not the renewed CTMA merged with ASB will take even more time. This has disastrous consequences.

If the Filipino farmer is to be addressed, smuggling has to be stopped immediately.

Different figures

In May 19, 2010, we expect all that those independent and credible organizations showed approximately the same amount of exports from other countries to the Philippines.

These are the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics and our own National Statistics Office.

Since these three indepen dent sources reported approximately the same number, we can conclude that the officers the coal bowl of Philippine imports. On the other hand, the Bureau of Customs reported an amount level that was $14 billion to $15 billion lower. The difference can mostly be explained by either outright smuggling or technical smuggling (e.g., undervaluation, misclassification, etc.).

Premature governmental revenue amounts to more than P110 billion a year. More importantly, but you due to smuggling means even more poverty.

The good news is Bill Shp. Hernandez Manchano, House Ways and Means Committee chair, announced in the March 2 hearing that the smuggling linkage will soon stop. This is because the ASB would now be merged with the CTMA. Its good emphasis to this point when he said that it might take two more Congresses to pass a merged bill.

Bad news

The bad news came later. In a talk with Manchano immediately after the hearings, he said that several representatives were insisting that the CTMA had to be passed before the ASB. He identified an obnoxious solution. The CTMA could be passed quickly, but not in its current form. A revised CTMA could be passed adopting completely the current Tariff and Customs Code (instead of overhauling it), but now including the provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The RKC is an international agreement to facilitate import procedures to boost international trade.

Advanced international trade is favorable, but smuggling is a crime.

In the previous Congress, the AA agreed to the RKC only if it would not jeopardize the Anti-Smuggling Bill. It was noted then only 66 out of the 170 WCO members had agreed to the RKC.

This was precisely because the RKC's easier import procedures carried the danger of even worsening smuggling. Thankfully, the RKC allows three to five years of preparation time before its provisions are implemented. The ASB would provide those preparatory measures which cannot be practically if the RKC is implemented first through the CTMA.

We are now told that we have to pass the CTMA before the ASB. This is so that we can retain goodwill from some international community members.

But the Kyoto protocol provisions do not have to be implemented for another three to five years. So why the rush to put this bill into law before the ASB, thus putting the ASB on and again after six years of hardwork?

Promises

Should Congress ignore Bflay's promises to fight smuggling? Considering the enormous government revenue foregone and the immense job losses from smuggling, why not the ASB before the CTMA?

By a change, why not put the Filipinos first?

(The author is chair of Agusan, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agusan_phil@yahoo.com or text 09205211123.)

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New World rebrands, burnishes its image

Major renovation of Makati hotel starts this year

By Margie C. Enriquez
Core Beat

FARID ALAIN Sebastain, New World Makati's general manager, wears the conventional dark suit. But there's a difference—a tiny silver mulberry is pinned on his lapel.

That's his way of announcing the company's rebranding.

The New World Hotel Hospitality is repositioning its hotels to target the new breed of travelers with a new logo, corporate colors and a focused corporate culture. This is in line with the Hong Kong-based group's expansion plans such as building some 90 hotels in the next five years.

Meanwhile, New World Makati will undergo a facelift later this year, starting with the refurbishment of the guest rooms to the Executive Club floors, the executive lounge, ballroom, function's, the lobby, main driveway and the Circadian lounge.

"In the past, the image of New World was confusing. When it opened, it was New World then it was managed under the Inchcape brand. Then New World came back and took over. In the old New World, the culture—or the way of doing things—was different. It didn't stand out from the rest," he says.

Harvard-educated Sonia Cheng, executive vice chair of New World Hospitality and granddaughter of tycoon Y.T. Cheng, chair of New World Group, aims to set the company as a major player in the

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Claret remarkably assures parents of their children's safety with SUN.
Fr. Renato B. Mondoñedo, CMF
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FROM WORRIES TO WORRY-FREE

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Follow consumers' self-segmentation

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Andy Roberto

BIG CONTROL with the concepts from Dr. Ned Roberto's latest book, "Segmenting How markets segment, self-segmenting and desegmenting are changing the marketing game." The book is now available in all major bookstores.

In the late 1970s, when my researchers would ask toilet soap users in Cebu (Tender, Safeguard, Imagine) study what toilet soap brand they use most often, each would name just one brand.

Now, some 30 years later, we're getting a little more 3D percent of consumers mentioning two brands as their most often used brand. When probed for their next brand answer, here's a typical consumer explanation: "Well, you know. For my face, I use Ivory. But for my body, I use Palmolive soap."

Self-segmentation

What this kind of consumer answer implies is that the 30 percent have segmented themselves by unstructured usage. That's consumer self-segmentation.

Market segmentation is usually understood as a marketer's behavior. That is only half of the total market segmentation reality. The other half of the reality, as the previous example shows, is that consumers also segment themselves.

It has been there all along but has just recently been acknowledged as consumer self-segmenting behavior.

Marketing crossroads

When the market segments that emerge from consumers' self-segmentation diverge from those emerging from the marketer's traditional segmentation, the marketing planning scene is threatened. It becomes a recipe for marketing failure if the marketer insists on its market segmentation.

The right path toward marketing success is to follow the consumers' self-segmentation. The smart marketers has to quickly converge with that segmentation.

To make a complete marketing sense than, as a process, market segmentation should start with consumer self-segmentation. That basically means researching on the latest consumer self-segmentation behavior. Then, the next step in the process is for the marketers to pick up those self-segmentation results as the basis for deciding on his primary and secondary target markets, and so on.

Starting the process with the marketer's market segmentation and then validating the resultant segments with the segments identified from the self-segmentation research is unnecessarily prolonging everything, it's inefficient and wasteful.

Two more wonderful and tidbits to the current and prevailing practice of starting and executing the marketing campaign with the marketer's market segmentation. The consumer self-segmentation inputs are even brought into the emerging.

Aligning your upgrading

The challenge to the marketers who wants to grow his business is simple.

He has to ask himself and answer the question: "For growing my market, how do I align my segmenting strategy with the way consumers segmented themselves segmented?"

Why is it that this is not a question that most marketers ask themselves in their market segmentation strategy planning? That's because most marketing practitioners still do not acknowledge the idea that consumers self-segment themselves.

Those who do, however, have gotten used to the traditional and conventional practice of marketer-driven segmentation and have run yet accepted the primacy of consumer self-segmentation over marketer-initiated segmenting. We all have yet to integrate into our practice the concept that market segmentation is both a marketer's behavior and a consumer behavior.

In these increasingly frequent occasions when the two diverge, the better and more superior resolution to this conflict favors the consumer self-segmentation option.

(Some of consumer usage self-segmenting and other details of self-segmenting can be found in Dr. Ned's book, Segmenting. Questions or comments? Send them to marketingdoc@pldtdsl.net or drned.roberto@gmail.com.)

Unique eatery rises in QC's golden triangle

Text and Photos by Elizabeth Lulsegs
Correspondent

GOLDEN CAFE couldn't have picked a better location than at a point where three important streets converge: the Pres. Triangle avenues Sgt. Esmeraldo and Scout Tobias Fornier and Member Ignacia Avenue.

Jojo Tamayo, vice president for food and beverage, sees the similarity to the five points of New York City.

Entering the café, you wonder if you're mistakenly gotten into a toy or hobby shop as glass cabinets display miniature car and helicopter models from Orion Cantilco collection. He is the safe president and an inventor of first things that make life easier efficient and economical (e.g., eco-friendly ultra palm cooking oil that has less emission, the first Philippine electric car, an anti-car theft device, among others).

There are also old soda pumps on the walls, including a Kinson coffee sticker, a 80-size Coca-Cola (can't just see it as Coca-Cola will ever power, no rules or much has been called in the old days.

The third person in this triumvirate is Zenith Torrevillas Tamayo, vice president for public relations and marketing and an inventor herself of organic health products like Green and Gold, a highly oxygenated water which has different for its target.

This water enhances and enables the body to absorb vitamins, minerals, amino acids, proteins and other important nutrients.

Somewhere in the cafe's hidden history is the love story of Jojo and Zenith who have been running parks for a few decades. They met at a studio metaphysical in Hindustan in the 1980s. Because her first name ends with the letter "O," there was instant in the same room with Jojo. But nothing untoward or romantic happened; they clicked as friends. Jojo married someone else; Zenith married Jojo.

He got widowed while her just recently ended. They reconnected on Facebook friends.

When they met again, the timing was right. On the propitious date of Jan. 1, 2011 or 1/1/11 they got married and quickly went about making sure that Golden Café lives up to its claim to be the country's first healthy café serving natural healing juices from fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh coffee beans and herbs, classic wrap sandwiches and quesadillas.

Glenn picked the name Golden because during his trips abroad, especially to developed countries, when people learned that he is a Filipino, they tell about the country's hardworkers and Pinoy industries and ingenuity. The company name "Golden" means that coal gold resides in the Filipino's resilient, hard-working character.

He envisions the café to be a hotbar (drinking scene) in the health merchandise it offers, with the rich and the health conscious dropping by for healing nourishment like his recent revelation—reversing the genetic of friends present in acid-forming food into anti-aging, anti-oxidant foods.

He said, "The invention is a breakthrough in science, enabling Filipinos to enjoy the goodness of acidic food yet able to achieve an 80-20 (potent pH balance for a healthy body."

Jojo, who went through drug rehabilitation at the House of Jeremiah in California where he also helped sunk for and home school juvenile delinquents, hopes to put aside his character home the café to make it another house for Filipinos (drug all) orders. He will also name the place Jeremiah after the Biblical verse "I have a plan for you, a good future."

He said, "We cater to everyone, especially the youth who just we want to start on a golden lifestyle that is healthy, wholesome and marked by a positive attitude."

So for him the name "Golden" has a personal meaning, too...it is "Good by the Next Generation," a generation that must unlearn fast-food eating habits. At the café, juices like the Body Cleanser Avocado and Detox blends are prepared fresh right before your eyes.

The colorful Body Cleanser has

TORETTO Torrevillas Tamayo

Spreading the love pays dividends for shirt firm

By Eric Brent B. Lim
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Cebu-based Islands Souvenirs Inc. (ISI) sold 200,000 T-shirts last year.

And the company may repeat the sales performance—or even surpass it—this year as the popularity of personalized "I love" T-shirts continues to grow in Cebu and in other cities in the country.

The I Heart Campaign was initially envisioned last year as the company's marketing strategy for the tourist month of February.

The idea was to promote the deal designed for couples on Valentine's Day for ISI fans visiting the Queen City of the South to buy "love" Cebu T-shirts.

ISI president Joy Aldeguer says the biggest part of the campaign's success is the affirmation that many people are proud of Cebu and of finding romance.

"There is a sense of pride in being a Cebuano. So, to the fullest, the campaign is really the personalized aspect. [But] printing only your name on the shirt. Cebuanos love Cebu and the moment you inject your personality there, all the more [you express the love for Cebu]," Aldeguer told the Inquirer.

He explains that the sales of ISI shirts typically peak in December (celebrations) and January (thanking festivals) then begin to slow down in February.

"February is a lean month so we thought of a campaign to fill in the lean months. We thought, 'What do we love?' And the concept of I Heart started," he explains.

One shirt retails costs between P299 and P399 but is ready prints of the heart icon and Cebu in capital letters.

On top of the heart icon is a space where a customer can personalize, If orders are placed at 11 a.m. or earlier in any of ISI outlets, the shirt can be picked up on the same day.

According to Aldeguer, the Valentine concept took on unexpected heat as it embraced the general love for Cebu.

"It showed immediate promise the moment we launched the campaign" he adds.

From February 2010, the campaign snowballed in the succeeding months. It usually peaks on June and it works for us," Aldeguer says.

The campaign is so popular that customize shirts are now outselling the regular ones.

Dubbed "double personalized," the shirt only bears the heart icon. The customers has more room to express his love for anyone (or anything) with pictures, he says.

Of the 200,000 shirts sold last year, 40 percent of the sales came from Cebu, 25 percent from Boracay and the remaining 35 percent is spread across the cities of Bohol, Manila, Boracay Siquijor and Palawan.

"We study how visit analytics ing works. It usually works on, line and it works for us," Aldeguer says.

The campaign is so popular that customize shirts are now outselling the regular ones, he says. Aldeguer remains unfazed.

He says Cebuanos may be price-conscious people but their ultra-value quality attitude ISI always assures its customers, is proven by the unending flow of customers of different ages and social status at the ISI store in Ayala Center Cebu, wanting to have their shirts personalized.

Leading Cebuano personalities served as the campaign's models and include former Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, basketball player Dondon Hontiveros and business-woman Amparito Escullen.

Aldeguer started Island Souvenirs in 1992 as a 21-year-old fresh college graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The young Cebuano drew inspiration from his travels in Europe and around the country. He was fond of collecting souvenir shirts from places he visited. Later, he bought T-shirts as they were practical souvenirs.

Love for country and deep pride in being Filipinos encouraged Aldeguer to put up this venture.

ISI is now a subsidiary of the growing The Islands Group, of which Aldeguer is chief executive officer. The group is into businesses related to the tourism industry such as retail, design, media, adventure and security, hotel.

Aldeguer says the main goal of the business is to fly the pro-made Cebu in a top tourist destination.

For the I Heart Campaign, Aldeguer says he expects more following from other cities in the country.

"We try to protect and nurture the idea since we realized that we have something special in our hands. This will continue because many people love Cebu," he says.

FORMER First Lady Imelda Marcos wears one of Joey's Cebu" shirt from Cebu Sen. Gwen Garcia. These "heart" shirts (left) are selling well.

Unique eatery rises...

From page B1-1

juiced apple at the bottom followed by a blend of cassava, cane, celery and pineapple with parsley to garnish. All for P80 a plate, about the price of a hundred tall coffee.

Zoreta said Golden Coffee comes in one sachet with 21 natural ingredients: coffee beans, soya bit milk, lithalingan (natural sweetener), ajuncar (lime mucil), pea lota, tongkat ali, minerals, turmeric, chorophyta, mangosteen, lagundi, and ganoderic. It's not just coffee, sugar and milk in one but a powerful alkaline drink that is unlike coffee's sweet aroma and strong blend. The sachets weighing 22 grams each cost P150.

Also served are café latte, cappuccino, mocha and hot lunge from Baguio benguet beans.

Her other invention is the free sugar nutritious ice cream which sounds like an oxymoron because of the frozen dessert's fattiness in sugar and milk. The ice cream is fortified with moringa (malunggay) and served in chocolate and strawberry flavors topped with cashew nuts and fruits in season.

Jojo proposes use the Spanish or Mexican way. The Golden Bamboo came with a choice of boiled skinless chicken or loin beef with salsings at tortillas served at fresh bamboo tubo. He also makes soup sandwiches of chicken or egg and quesadillas with chicken or spinach. The portions are big and he sharing.

Jojo adds, "they're simple and inexpensive to prepare."

Golden Café does not serve alcohol, just its Golden Wine, another line of Olivia's inventions.

He says, "It's not white nor red wine but golden. This is suitable for non-drinkers. It (wine) like it has to alcohol in it."

A glass of Golden Wine costs P75, fewer than other restaurants' offer, but cashiers are allowed only two glasses as drunken behavior is not tolerated in the house. All other wines served are free(flo). Red is, fruit- or grape-based (dire, mango) to red ingredients.

As for the secret of keeping them prices low, there is no secret.

Zoreta says, "We share with our customers how the juices and other food items are done. We like to teach."

The teaching has extended to their husband and at the Quezon Provincial Circle. Dad's always request and persuade father for to buy pick-me-ups from these entrepreneurs in the healthy food business.

A GOLDEN partnership begins.

Araneta Center, Capiz LGU partner to boost trade, tourism

By Jo-Ann G. Maglalang

NOT EVERYONE has the time and money to go around the country and take part in colorful Festivo.

Araneta Center has four-minutes Pinoys-cater Philippines to their people can have a festival taste of what these festivals are all about without leaving the capital.

Can't go to a fiesta? Then the event will bring the fiesta to you, says Jesus Manuel Gallardo, publicity manager of the Araneta Group.

Besides strolling around different components, according to Mangahas and Zhuse include food, industry, shopping songs and dances, travel and Cinderella and arts and crafts.

"We'd like to have those elements as each of the festivals that will present here in Araneta Center," she says.

The first province to be featured is Visita-value Philippines is Capiz.

"Capiz-Tahan is Araneta" is slated today and tomorrow, and is made possible by Araneta Center in consultation with Gov. Capiz and the Department of Trade and Industry.

"We will specialize the Capiz fiesta, which is happening on April 25-27," Mangahas says.

According to Capiz Governor Victor Tanco, the event is a good opportunity to inform more people about Capiz.

"Capiz is a rich province pertaining to its press," he says. "We are rich in seafood, culture, history and resources."

During Capiz-tahan in Araneta, products from the province will be highlighted.

"To promote the province as a tourist destination with food as one of the main attractions, we will have a display and sale of Capiz seafood at the Entrance to Araneta Market," Tanco says. "We will include the famous shellfish diwal."

Diwal, which means "to suck your tongue out" to the Capiz dialect, got its name because part of its tail extends out of the shell like a tongue. It is also called by the Cebuanos as kapal wing shell because valves opened out the shells look like wings.

Manapaliao says Tourism value Philippines is also out why be the local government to encourage with the private sector to boost tourism and trade.

"On our part as the private sector, we also try to encourage restaurants here to participate in the festivals to showcase their delicacies," he says.

Mangahas stated Island Souvenirs in 1992 as a 21-year-old fresh college graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The young Cebuano drew inspiration from his travels in Europe and around the country. He was fond of collecting souvenirs. Shirt from places he visited. Later, he bought T-shirts as they were practical souvenirs.

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CAPIZ is known for its "kabibe," "diwal" and other kinds of seafood, and these will be showcased during Fiesta-value Philippines

New World rebrands, burnishes its image

From page B1-1

global hospitality industry. It is pumping over a billion dollars to its three brands: the New World Hotel for corporate business; the premium luxury brands in China and Hong Kong and the budget brand.

"It was natural for New World to be the next Shangri-la. New World's direction is to be recognized as modern Oriental brand," he says. "When we introduced the new brand and revealed of New World, we want to come up with something that gave focus and purpose to our customers and for our partners to recognize what we were aiming for."

But it is Lehmann and others sitted on Tuesday, Solomon has had childhood memories of picking mulberries as he squeezed into a drink. New World Hospitality chose the mulberry as its symbol because it is the most loved source for the silkworm.

From silk production, the focus moves the story of the Silk Route, which was an important path for the silk and luxury trade and cultural, religious, science and exchanges between the East and the West.

"The Silk Route represents exciting adventures, the history about traveling, knowing relationships between different cultures and diversity of people and communities. The modern era started it all. It's just a matter of how we describe the symbol of the brand New World represents," says Solomon. "It's about taking the Oriental wisdom and adapting it to the modern world. Some [Chang] wants to have a clean identity so that everybody can focus on what matters. Gestaad or relationship hospitality is all about. When you have purpose and meaning and better understanding of what the company stands for, then it's easy for people to work for the company. You feel more committed."

How World Hotels has been working quietly on its new marketing task.

"It's a gradual introduction, but we want to show the things by focusing on what we do every day. It will take time for people to recognize what the logo stands for. The best way is through the way we work," he says.

Using the image of the leaving, the five principles in the workplace form the tip, beneath the iceberg are the eight pillars that uphold the principles.

"These five principles are to be carried out daily from the GM to the cleaning being creative, passion, inspiring engaging and perceptive," he says.

Solomon points out that these attributes are innate in Filipinos.

He recalls that when he first arrived in Manila as food and beverage director of the Hyatt in 1992, he first met columnist Classy Trinidad. Through the late Albert Stockard, the manager of Tempura Mitsuo restaurant. The immediately invited the newcomer to his place. He was touched by the genuine gesture.

These Asian attributes should be expressed at work.

"We coach these five principles to our associates daily. When you roam in, people greet you with a different smile and make eye contact. It's not cookie cutter. Everybody does it. But we know what it means and we know how important it is. We try to do it in a very sincere and natural way. If you need help, they go out of their way to assist you. There's no store 'I'm the chief, receptionist or doorman.' Any associate you encounter will make you eventually where you want to go. They want to build long-lasting relationship with all our guests," he explains.

Solomon points out that although Filipinos are naturally engaging compared with their Asian neighbors, they still need supervision. "It, nice, studies have is nice everything. You have to be efficient and you have to deliver."

The attributes are maintained by eight pillars, based on traditional Oriental values: family, community, excellence, continuous learning, respect, celebrating successes, integrity or maintaining the highest level of honesty and fairness, humility or approaching life with a sense of gratitude rather than entitlement and ownership or taking responsibility for the financial success of the company.

Guests have been noticing the subtle changes. A Hong Kong-based company was planning to bring its executive guest survey to bring out feedback. There are sent to the New World head office and to Solomon who personally answers the e-mail. He says the overall satisfaction index has been on 90 percent. Other indicators are the repeat guests and positive reviews in the travel blogs and websites.

Businesswise, the 500-room hotel has been experiencing high occupancy of 90 to 100 percent since September as with most Makati hotels. But what sets it apart is the opportunity of service as opposed to being contrived. Says Solomon: "The difference here is that everything is done very natural. It is nothing is rehearsed or memorized. You're treated as a friend. We remember us, breathe and live the culture and apply those ideals in a natural way. It's about people-like to others."

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer chronicles the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

Rain, the magic at the room, and the many stories in between, the INQUIRER's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and calamities of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It ended its beginning, as the son of the woman whose outbursts dealt a partial to founding becomes the second to 15th president.

Alongside the history of the "democratic project," the book tells the story of the INQUIRER's growth its those years, from a paper financed by a pawned engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence in print, broadcast, and beyond mobile.

Books are available at the
Inquirer Corporate Affairs office, Inquirer Bldg., Tagaytay corner Mascardo St.
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BUSINESS Friday

Laundry shop seminar set

THE GOLDEN Investment Skills Development Program will conduct a two-day seminar on laundry shop operations at the College of Social Work and Community Development Magsaysay Avenue, Pantas Street, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on March 12 and 13.

The seminar will give participants basic information on how to start the business, basic types of services, marketing strategies, staffing and organization.

Procedures on dry cleaning will also be discussed. Participants will also be taught how to dry clean and iron special clothes such as barong tagalog and gowns.

There will also be an actual demonstration of how to make laundry-cleaning products such as powder soap, fabric softener and liquid bleach.

For questions, call 421.35.77; 415.65.51; 436-79.25 and 433.76.08.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Fashion world in shock as Dior fires Galliano

From enfant terrible to terrible of a different sort—who can replace him in one of fashion's most coveted posts?

By Charlie Floyd

IT WAS the move that broke the couture-clad cacao's back.

The House of Dior has announced on Tuesday it's firing creative director John Galliano, shortly after a video of the British designer making anti-Semitic slurs surfaced on the Internet.

Dior suspended Galliano Friday last week after his drunken altercation with patrons in a Paris café near the designer's home. It was earlier alleged that he hurled insults and made anti-Semitic statements, an illegal and punishable offense under French law. His statements contained he called them "dirty Jewish face" and "stone burned."

The fashion house had said it was suspending Galliano pending a police investigation.

But after the release on Thursday of an amateur video showing an intoxicated Galliano saying things like "I love Hitler," Dior quickly released a statement that said it had started legal procedures to dismiss him, a process that could take weeks to months. It is believed the video was taken on a separate occasion.

The video shows Galliano telling the people seated next to him, "People like you should be dead," and makes references about people being "gassed."

"We unequivocally condemn the statements made by John Galliano, which are in total contradiction to the long-standing core values of Christian Dior," Sidney Toledano, Dior's chief executive, told Women's Wear Daily.

Oscars 2011—'forgettable,' more of the same, says Auggie Cordero

By Margo C. Enriquez

AFTER THE Oscars hoopla, clients come to Auggie Cordero's atelier with clippings of their favorite red-carpet gowns, asking if they could have a similar rendition.

The designer doesn't believe in copying and insists on injecting his signature. Cordero uses some of the gowns, although deceptively simple, are challenging exercises in construction. Some require over 15 layers of satin fabric. (He still can't figure out if Natalie Portman's ball* winner Halle Berry's see-through embroidered top, worn over a crimson draped skirt by Elie Saab, had a lining. Or how Reese Witherspoon's blue sequined dress by Gucci molded her body despite the lack of nudes.)

Cordero's research on movies and on the precise construction of star couture has made him the choice of discriminating women when it comes to adopting Hollywood glam.

Not a few know in and out of the fashion industry that the Oscars—the movies—have been the obsession of Cordero, a near-scholarly obsession as old as his career.

He takes off from work just to watch the delayed telecast of the awards night and analyze the love and worst gowns.

Popular choice

This year, he predicts clients would want their version of Natalie Portman's violet silk, which has gone by Rodarte, with its fitted-and-studded sweeping V neckline and cap sleeves. He says the overlap of gathered fabric swooped down to the emphasize her bulge.

Helen Mirren's jet-sweet gown with draped neckline and abbreviated bolero sleeves would be another popular choice. "Mirren has never made a mistake in the Oscars," he says. He notes that the design was similar to Elizabeth Taylor's gown worn in the '70s at the Oscars.

Of the nine gowns worn by Oscar host Anne Hathaway, only by the strapless fuchsian gown worn at the red carpet made an impression on him. However, he laments his clients would find the exercise and push on the side-cut embroidery.)

"The rest were forgettable," he says, referring to the white ballgown by Riccardo Tisci for Givenchy, Lauren tuxedo, all-over and black couture by Monique Pittenaud. Fringed gown by Oscar de la Renta, red Valentino bustier with curvy beading, off-the-shoulder sapphire by Armani Privé and the black long-sleeved gown by Tom Ford.

Cordero commends 14-year old Best Supporting Actress nominee Hailee Steinfeld's no-frills look—pale pink, tea-length, silk gown with spaghetti straps.

On the whole, Cordero finds the 83rd Annual Academy Awards low in fashion wattage, as the clothes were more of the same—strapless, mermaidy or pale gowns.

"They need a Lady Gaga," he says, referring to the singer with her bold, unconventional red-carpet style.

Provocateurs

Asked if Portman was the new Audrey Hepburn as touted by the press, Cordero flatly says no. In the Old Hollywood days, he explains, the big studios took care of their stars. Designers had a working relationship with actresses: in those days, the Oscars was just a formal affair that gave valorized buzz.

Today, stars work with stylists. "Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn—they weren't dependent on designers or stylists. Now, the staid show 'needs a Lady Gaga' to provocateurs."

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Many designers are also at the mercy of the stars, their handlers and stylists. Or, some fashion houses will doll up only one nominee or presenter. They compete for stars to wear their gowns, hoping to get millions of dollars' worth of media mileage.

In old Hollywood, the stars were individualistic. Hepburn was at the top of the fashion list for making wise choices. Her collaboration with Hubert Givenchy allowed her to make an impact with a Sabrina-neckline lace gown that she wore when she scooped her best actress trophy for "Roman Holiday."

Over the years, Givenchy dressed her in more memorable designs for the Oscars, such as a white strapless gown with black dots and a contrasting striped belt, and a one-shoulder gown with trailing fabric.

Whilst men and women were jewelry on hint, Elizabeth Taylor humiliated her own realm. One of her best looks, at the 1978 Oscars, was a strapped, decolleté lilac gown cinched at the waist to match her eyes, designed by Edith Head. The star's glittery shoulder the 69 karat diamond on her neck.

Cordero points out that some big-time designers have never made it to the Oscars, such as Crawford Bahnckage. Also, Yves Saint Laurent's multicolor feathered gown made Catherine Deneuve, his muse, look Dumpier. There were designers who cringed at certain eras, such as Giorgio Armani in the '90s.

"Armani, Versace and Valentino know what designs would work in front of the camera," he says. There have been seasons of Vera Wang, Carolina Herrera and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

Glamour can also be cloying after some time. Cordero says the Oscars needs some provocateurs to shake up the event. In 1969, Barbra Streisand shocked the crowd by wearing Arnold Scaasi's boned tunic and sheer black pants that showed her boobs, when she got her award for "Funny Girl."

In 1968, Cher appeared in one through Bob Mackie gown with headwork and lace that covered the essentials. Another time, her private party wore covered by black diamond-veil fabric and she wore a cyrano of feathers on a Statue of Liberty of sorts.

"She provided comic relief. Nobody could dictate to her," he says.

Tough act

Rhonda Ryder warned the designers-loyal cause with Pauline Trigère's creations—a Twiss fringed gown with sleeves that dropped into a shawl. This year, Marisa Tomei appeared in a sexy Charles James strapped ballgown. Julia Roberts' black Valentino gown with a sheer V gaping from the sleeves is now an Oscar classic.

It's been said that 40 designers presented their styles. Valentino said he got some $1 billion worth of publicity when Roberts walked down the red carpet in that dress and subsequently got a trophy for "Erin Brockovich."

Many youngsters liked Claire Danes' confident T-shirt top with silk chantreuse skirt with a circular cut for their prom. Cordero's only regret is that he lost his patience for the sweet dress, a circular skirt with bias cut panels that he popularized in the '70s.

Mary wanted to imitate Gisele Bündchen's famous nude gown this year.

"But you can't copy it. The embroidery has to be done in China. There's embroidery in the front and back under the netting and some fringes. It looks like a mantua," remarks Cordero.

Elizabeth Taylor's jersey evening gown by Halston was another tough act to follow.

"I thought it was easy to make, but there's a corset in the construction," Cordero wanted to avoid complaints that the design would make Hollywood dreams trim reality for his clients.

CORDERO: meets Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Liz Taylor, Madonna, Cate Blanchett, Nicole Kidman, Renée Zellweger, Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Halle Berry, Sandra Bullock, Hilary Swank, Ashley Judd, Holly Hunter as among the best dressed at the Oscars.

RESEARCH materials on the fashion and history of the Oscars, which Inquirer Cordero's designs.

Stunning but safe formals win at the Oscars

Stylists toed the line, as the old guard (a.k.a. Valentino) and the Muleavy sisters (a.k.a. Rodarte) shared the limelight

By Larry Levison
Contributor

VALENTINO RED—Mr. Garavani dressed Anne Hathaway in a 2002 strapless red column with silk roses and a low-buckle train.

AGWAL PURPLE—Star Actress Natalie Portman in purple chiffon by Rodarte, designed by the Mulleavy sisters who also designed her costume for "Black Swan."

PURPLE HAZE—Scarlett Johansson wore two kinds of lace by Dolce & Gabbana, here shown with contrast back and modest fishtail.

BEST IN LONG GOWN—Cate Blanchett wears the pleated chiffon encrusted with fabric-covered beads in yellow. Modern couture by Riccardo Tisci for Givenchy.

NEW PORTRAIT NECKLINES—Whatever your from the waist up for your next close-up makes the world is just as important as the overall look. Necklines frame the face and set the look for the dress. Annette Bening in black and silver Gucci heads to Heaven River, Phillip Sharpe in white crystal-beaded asymmetric neckline, Reese Witherspoon in black-and-white Armani Prive, Jennifer Lawrence in swimsuit neck top by Calvin Klein by Francisco Costa.

Nicole Portman wore jewelry on hint, Elizabeth Taylor humiliated her own realm. One of her best looks, at the 1978 Oscars, was a strapped, decolleté lilac gown cinched at the waist to match her eyes, designed by Edith Head. The star's glittery shoulder the 69 karat diamond on her neck.

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"I thought it was easy to make, but there's a corset in the construction," Cordero wanted to avoid complaints that the design would make Hollywood dreams trim reality for his clients.

"The Oscars night is a compilation of made-to-measure clothes by designers. You see how their designs work on real women, instead of models on a runway."

For Cordero, his job now is to turn Hollywood dreams into reality for his clients.

Well, at this point, just study the pictures of the superstars presenting, for posterity, evidence of stylists being so universally correct, perhaps too afraid of the Internet Fashion Police from they care to chew, shoot, the acrid and candied formula this year.

JOHN Galliano (center, in a hat) and his lawyer Stephane Zerdab (far left) arrive for a hearing at a police station in Paris Feb. 29, following allegations that the designer hurled racist remarks at a couple in a Paris bar. REUTERS

Fashion world in shock . . .

From page C1

No surprise

Galliano's dismissal didn't come as a surprise to some insiders who have long operated on his chronic drug relationship with the house, which is owned by Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy.

Galliano was launched by LVMH chief Bernard Arnault to design Dior in 1996, replacing Gianfranco Ferre. At LVMH, the flamboyant designer was first assigned to succeed Hubert de Givenchy who was about to retire.

Galliano's risque creations created just the buzz Arnault needed for the brand. Soon after arrival, the British enfant terrible scored with dramatic shows and extravagantly provocative clothes.

Turning in a profit, however, was a different story. Dior continued to struggle with the bottom line. A devotee to design a more commercial collection resulted in a critical flop.

But Dior, the first fashion house Arnault bought when he started LVMH, is said to be the French tycoon's favorite, so he ventured to knighted Galliano.

Galliano's relationship with Teischman, however, was said to be strained. The volatile designer has long been reported to be battling alcohol addiction.

The news of Galliano's firing comes only a few days before the Dior show at Paris Fashion Week closed Friday. Dior has said it will pack Bonnig's sailboat in designers.

Downfall

Industry insiders condemned Galliano's act but lamented the downfall of a man considered to be a genius at his craft.

"The thing is, we are in a business world where, especially today with the Internet, one has to be more careful than ever, especially if you are a publicly known person. For reasons go in the street and be drunk—these are things you cannot do," Kal Ruttenstein told WWD.

Patrick Kelleher, Vogue Bible editor in chief, however, looked at those who leaked the video. Telling WWD: "I'm not in despair] by these people who care what state John was in and took advantage of the situation by leaking on his name and notoriety. While I condemn John's words, I think they were said in a private moment when he wasn't [sic]. I'm frightened by how quick these young people were to try to gain notoriety or money while destroying the image of a genius."

Inclusion refers to the audible giggling in the video.

Galliano's sacking has created one of the most contested positions in international fashion, setting in motion speculations on his replacement. Featured Dior Homme designs

THE FLAMBOYANT Galliano is known for his dramatic shows and arrow-arguably provocative clothes. Above, at the finale of Christian Dior Spring/Summer 2010 haute couture collection show in Paris

LVMH chair Bernard Arnault handpicked Galliano to design Dior in 1996, replacing Gianfranco Ferre. Above, the French tycoon with Galliano at the opening of Dior's Japan flagship store in 1998

as Herb Ritts, Giverchy's Pieces du Tiel, Yves Saint Laurent's Helmut Pilot and current fashion favorite Hedi Slimane are some of the names being floated around.

Of course, nothing is certain. But perhaps nothing is more uncertain than the future of the genius who has fallen from grace.

EQ Baby Diapers Congratulates the 1st Batch of Winners of the Jollibee Kids Party!

Kids and mothers all over the Philippines will now be heading to their nearest Jollibee store because EQ Baby Diapers announced the first seven winners of the EQ Jollibee Birthday Party Raffle Promo! EQ diaper owners in the seventy-five (75) lucky winners from Ubbi, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao! They are now going to have a Jollibee Kids Party courtesy of EQ Baby Diapers. Their nationwide raffle promo in EQ Diapers was all-encompassing as graduates in the major cities were invited to enter their EQ Baby Diapers' enrollment receipts and information slip. For families wishing to have their own Jollibee party, you still have a chance to win Jollibee Kids Party Packages as there are still ten (10) more raffles left until more than 500 participants are given away! Just visit the nearest supermarket or branch of Mercury Drug, SM Centers and EQ Dry Diapers with your name, address, contact numbers, ages and even your baby's name and birthday. Entries may be dropped in Jollibee Kiddie Party Boxes in your area. It can also be mailed or hand-carried to All Seasons Marketing Corp. Cebu & Cagayan de Oro. Hurry and submit your entries now! The more entries you send, the more chances of winning. Promo runs until April 30, 2011. For more information, inclusions, rules, and how to visit more locations visit or

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BLUE trends. She's pretty in a baby blue lace prom dress; he's cool in black slacks, a white pinstriped shirt with a black and gray tapa vest from Marlon, plus a silver bow tie.

PANTHERS in pink and purple. Doctor, hot pink maxi tube dress from Sunnie; on him, black slacks, purple pinstriped vest from Marlon and a red tie.

Teens step out for prom night

FROM TRADITIONS have changed since the first formal were held in the 1920s; fashion, however, continues to play a big role. This is evident in the new prom collections from SM's Teens Wear Department Source for girls and Marlon for guys. With the tradition of matching colors—the girl's dress and corsage with the boy's tie and boutonniere, these make great style partners.

These set dresses drawn in the brightest of colors from the Source line at the Girls Teens Wear Department. Bold pink, brilliant orange, deep purple and blazing blue formals express youthful exuberance as well as elegance. For those who will be attending late formal events, there are contemporary pieces like short tulle skirts and silky tops.

Boys, on the other hand, will simply rock with the Marlon prom collection from SM's Boys Teens Wear Department. Trendy suits and dress shirts give formal dressing an elegant but edgy look. Those who will be going to late formal proms can opt for plain long-sleeved shirts and vests.

The Source collection is available at the Girls Teens Wear Department at the 3rd store in Makati, Cubao, North Edsa, Megamall, the Old Mall of Asia, Southmall, and Cebu. The Marlon collection is available at the Boys Teens Wear section at all SM Department Stores.

BACK to black in Mark Source's black halter mini; for her a black metallic stripe shirt and white shorts; for him, a dress shirt with contrasting tie and black trousers.

BLUE mix. Source's royal blue maxi dress for her; gingham-blue/white shirt, black slacks and a bow detail on the pockets from Marlon for him, also worn with silver gray tie.

Fashion Up with Skechers Tone-ups

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Shopper

STYLE SIREN
Sam Yaokasin, student

FLIRTYLICIOUS
Carol Tu, model

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COOLDOWN CASUAL
Mom

Baddeo gowns for Puerto Princesans

TWENTY CANDIDATES will vie for the title "Miss Puerto Princesa 2011" on March 4, Friday at City Coliseum, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, popularly known for their "Kinderprensa River" (cool) or Seven Wonders of Nature).

This newly inspired is one of the highlights of the city's wedding founding anniversary, along with their Bakay-ong (Flower) Festival, spearheaded by the good Mayor Edward Hagedorn and wife Ellen Marcelo with the big help of Cesario Mon and staff. The inspired night will be directed by Earl Cristobal. Grand wear is made by Jason Jones.

For the finals, the singer Jessi Brooks will sew gown the lovely candidates in their gowns by designer Eddie Baddeo.

DESIGNER Eddie Baddeo

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PANORAMIC glass overpleasures the ocean panorama of 1016 Residences.

Global lifestyle shaping up in Cebu as Ayala launches 1016 Residences

THE DYNAMIC regional hub that is Cebu has its own unique lifestyle needs. Thanks to a laid-back pace that seamlessly integrates fun-love work-play dynamics.

This requires a new, complementary living paradigm, where Ayala Land Inc., the developer behind the country's major growth centers, now applies its expertise to.

The firm's inherent understanding of the premium market's pro-pen by numerous signature projects that go above and beyond the lifestyle needs of its residents. Backed by in-demand residential projects and successful launches such as Montecito, Fontana, West Tower at Sarmenta and Park Terraces, Ayala Land Premier launches a development that not only signals a more aggressive play in the South, but also stays true to the trends that have made all their projects an ideal fit for their market, as well.

"True to the overall vision of Ayala Land Premier, 1016 Residences will rise within the heart of Cebu's Central Business District, taking advantage of its prime location and emphasizing its direct access to a full range of retail, dining and recreational amenities," says Bobby Dy, head of Ayala Land's Residential Business Group.

It will be launched tomorrow, March 5, at

It is primed to become the premier residential living center in the southern metropolis

the Ayala Center in Cebu.

Geographical expansion

The project is aligned with Ayala Land Premier's thrust of geographically expanding to the South, in response to the unmet needs of the market, and is thus primed to become the premier residential living center in Cebu's most prime locations.

Beginning with its seamless integration with the City Sports Club of Cebu and access to Ayala Center Cebu, it is a mixed-use development that ensures exclusivity and space. The 2,400-sq m high-rise with two- and three-bedroom units that will follow the leisure-inspired building architecture and ambiance.

Attention to finer details will also be evident, with the developer's deliberate intent to focus on interior space planning and addition of exquisite finishes. It teems with amenities, such as a wooden deck and lounging areas for convenience.

The project has an exceptional location, where business, multifunctional, retail, dining and recreational establishments are just a few minutes away.

The central idea is to underscore a distinct lifestyle within the city's address of choice. And this ideal will be amplified and complemented by its design, which will take advantage of open spaces and landscaped views. "With Ayala Land leading its heritage and expertise in answering the living needs of Cebu's market, you can certainly expect our commitment to add a new dimension to the evolving Cebu lifestyle," says Dy.

1016 Residences (far left) and its amenities that include an open deck swimming pool

Skincare should extend to knees and elbows

DURING a chicken pox, my friend's mother told her that she should buy a very sheer dress while her knees still looked good. Pic all excited laughing, but my friend's mom explained that our knees were bound to look rugged as wrongs as the years go by.

As funny as it may sound, what she said is true. That's when I realized we should moisturize and take care not only our hands, feet and neck, but our elbows and knees as well.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Hands and feet

Our hands and feet are constantly in motion and are exposed to different elements. It is natural that we take care of our face and this pampering should also be applied to our hands and feet. Pic apply SPF on our face, but it would also be good to spread the love on our hands and feet.

Our hands dry up due to constant washing and applying of alcohol, so we should always use moisturizers. Almond and jojoba oil, when massaged on the hands and feet, increases blood circulation and best of all, skin tone.

Get a manicure-pedicure once a month for maintenance. Anderson is the best time to have your feet scrubbed to remove callous and dead skin. My best tip is for the hands and feet is to slather your hands and feet with petroleum jelly before you sleep and wear gloves and socks once done!

Neck

The best way to preserve the newly youthful appearance is to include it in your daily routine. The skin on our neck is a lot thicker than the skin on the face, but it is extremely sensitive and prone to wrinkles, horizontal lines, sagging and all other signs of skin aging. In fact when women have their hairdos the dead gets away is normally the neck! So please remember your neck and shield it from the sun as much as possible.

Elbows and knees

The main reason our elbows and knees start to look unattractive is neglect for long periods of time. After extensive sun exposure leads to blotches and uneven skin. Frequent applications of SPF is advisable. To find, to make the process much easier are lotions that already has SPF. Toners are good to apply on these areas as well to remove dirt and residue. Rub the tryst of a lemon or sun-lightener to lighten those areas and smoothen skin. Exfoliate diligently.

Prevention is cheaper. Besides down for those areas haven't been invented yet.

Color clash

It's festive and electrifying—but simplicity remains the essence

LET US end the year's first quarter with a lined and colorful bang. Color-blocking is the latest fashion trend that throws all you were told about mix-and-matching colors out the window.

Put on two bright and contrasting colors to create a bold statement that makes you stand out from the crowd. Yes, an old another, but make sure you don't go beyond three or else you might look like a mess.

Take note that a true stylista includes shoes and bag in the mix. Use neutral colored accessories such as white, khaki and black to "neutralize" the colorful mix.

The challenge is to not go overboard, because the bright color scheme already attracts all the attention. Overdoing it with too much color or outlandish jewelry will make it look too busy and heavy with elements.

Remember: While the purpose of the trend is to create a festive and electrifying look, the essence is still rooted in simplicity.

Whether you are participating in the glamorous new 7th High or just having dinner with friends, color-blocking ensures you'll always be the center of attention.

Visit www.nelsongan.wordpress.com and follow me on Twitter.com/nelsongan.

Mabuhay!

Jessi J. Epperson

Pam Anderson likes mock-chicken 'adobo'—because veggie fare is beauty fare

LET'S face it. We're all wanting our weight. That certain means dieting. But we also love food, so wouldn't it be great if we could eat lots of delicious food and still maintain a healthy weight?

Feeling fit and looking fine is an easy and tasty way to enjoy a healthy vegan diet. Naturally low in fat and high in complex carbohydrates, plant-based foods help the body burn calories by boosting its metabolism. Meat, on the other hand, is loaded with saturated fat, calories and cholesterol, which can clog arteries and pack on the pounds.

Natalie Portman, for one, credits her vegetarian diet with helping her stay in peak physical condition. Indeed, studies show that a vegan diet promotes a healthy heart, helping many maximize their youthful vigor and boundless stamina. Many athletes, from Olympic champions like Edwin Moses to tennis legends Chris Evert and UFC fighter Mac Danzig, stay in top shape by choosing alternatives to meat.

But dairy, burgers and chicken legs will go right to your thighs. If you want to drop your cholesterol level and drop the pounds, simply drop meat, eggs and dairy foods from your diet. You'll have a beach body in no time.

Researchers have found that, on average, vegetarians are 15 percent leaner than meat-eaters. Not only that, they're also less likely to develop heart disease, cancer and diabetes. In fact, adopting a vegan diet has been shown to reverse the damage done by a steady stream of burgers and nuggets.

One more thing: Remember to eat a variety of "whole foods," with plenty of beans, nuts, whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Avoid partially hydrogenated oils and deep-fried foods. Although a diet consisting of Coke and French fries is technically vegan, you can't be healthy if you eat nothing but junk food.

More reasons

Here are some more reasons why being vegetarian is a good idea:

- A plant-based diet helps you stay in shape without having to starve away at the gym. That's because even if vegans consume as many calories as meat-eaters do, vegans wouldn't be getting the saturated fat and cholesterol animal products are full of.
- Eating food free of cholesterol and saturated fat also clears the skin. People undergoing grueling cardiac surgery are told to eat a vegan diet, because it helps unclog arteries, but truth does that, too! It aids in any if I ever you.
- A vegan diet keeps away diseases like diabetes, arthritis, kidney disease, asthma and especially heart disease and cancer. Vegetarians are half as likely as meat-eaters to develop heart disease, and about 40 percent less likely to get cancer than non-vegetarians—regardless of other risks such as smoking, body size and socioeconomic status.
- Greens: Iranks provide more than enough vitamins, minerals and other nutrients to get you through the day. No vitamin pills, just nothing but raw veggies, or Nature intended.
- Energy: Lots of it. People who find this hard to believe should think of all the vegetarian athletes and Olympians, like Carl Lewis and Martina Navratilova.
- Cholesterol and fat in meat and other animal foods slow the flow of blood to your heart. They also constrict the blood flow to vital organs. So, folks, if you want more staying power in the bedroom, just reach for a veggie burger in the kitchen.
- There is no bigger remedy than investment(s) to animal suffering.

Starry stars

Manila is chockfull of veggie restaurants worth exploring. Read the stories of these savvy stars on why you should turn a new leaf.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rases

"I wasn't always a vegetarian, but I've always loved animals. If you ever have the chance to meet a cow, pig, chicken or goat, you will see they are just as cute and funny as your dogs and cats—and that they too, want to live and feel love. They don't like pain. Sow when I see a steak, it makes me feel sad and sick because right away I see my dog or the retaining animals I've met as a classroom. I've been vegan for over 18 years, and it's the single most important and helpful decision I have ever made. Once I went vegan, I lost the weight I wanted to lose, my nails were stronger, and my skin was glowing. I felt great, and I look better now than I did 15 years ago."—Alicia Silverstone

After switching to a vegetarian diet years ago, I could never imagine eating meat again! Many people don't realize that chickens, pigs, fish and cows are interesting and intelligent animals who have individual personalities, just like dogs, cats and people do. Eating meat supports cruelty and suffering that are all can help prevent, and it's as easy as choosing delicious plant-based foods. I've found that vegetarian restaurants are popping up all over the place in the Philippines, and I can hardly wait to go there and try them all out. A great Filipino restaurant near my home in Los Angeles makes a mock-chicken adobo that's to-die-for, using a meat substitute made from seitan. It's cruelty-free and is made without all the cholesterol of meat!"—Pam Anderson

Alicia Silverstone, Yasmien Kurdi—they also swear by it

PAM ANDERSON

"Since turning meat from my diet, I have so much more energy, which is a good thing, with my two little boys. My mom has also noticed her energy levels shoot up since going vegetarian, and her health has improved, too. Best of all, I lost a ton of weight. I used to have a 36- to 38-inch waistline, but after I went vegetarian, I instantly became skinny—my waistline shrank to 29 inches!

When I was a little girl growing up in Kuwait, I saw my father slaughtering lambs before parties and celebrations. I could see the absolute terror in the animals' eyes, and I always used to fight with my dad about it. I stopped eating meat when I realized other animals killed for meat were just as scared and helpless as those lambs."—Yasmien Kurdi

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Nene Lacson holds 'guilt-free' birthday bash

MONTE Carlo-based Negrense private banker Edwardo "Nene" Lacson of Geo. Pacific Group Holdings SA marked another year of his exciting life, jubilation. He invited about 100 friends to Monte Carlo. Only, nobody he had cleared for the night even for its members just to hold his exclusive party.

The chilled bubbly flowed and lively to complement the excellent fine dining. The upscale guest list included the well-heeled from the world of business and society. A clash of generations from different parts of the world came to room for the party such as good-looking hunk Pablo Gaudiard and Marcela from Brazil, renowned violinist dance duo, Pavlos, and stylish Kathy de Guzman with daughter Amanda from Singapore.

The birthday bar celebration was superbly prepared and executed by Nene Lacson's nephew, RJ Lacson, son of Shiny Lacson, former Negros Occidental governor and now GSIS chairman. RJ is also a seasoned photographer-packaged.

"What my uncle wanted was something with an international touch," said RJ. "Something guilt-free, overflowing and private."

Nene's niece Anny Gonzales helped orchestrate the parade. The music was a blending of rare tracks from the real Studio 54 and Bimbo from the Pure Playboy mansion.

Divine singer Stephanie Beers, who recently performed at the Carnegie Hall, did a spectacular performance. She wowed the show coming from the upper floor as she glided down the staircase to the stage.

Contributing to the awesome success of the birthday was the celebrant's special pal, gorgeous Marietta C. Uribel, who coordinated with Fabulous Only hostesses, such as Louie Yuvasi, to make sure Nene and his guests had a great time. No words did, darlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaudo

Photos by Alex Van Hagen
posted by MIKE MANCIOCO

Nene Lacson also declared romantic. "Nerissa Ocampo, the audacious and successful art of beauty living, has arrived in our shores, through the Mission Statements," he said. "To have a Nerissa Ocampo address is a rare opportunity. Her work speaks and expresses. [Since Rene can] only few exist, [they are] considered a highly collectible commodity."

We couldn't help but admire the artwork, the showroom, which was unveiled to mark Century Properties' 25th anniversary.

If you are a Nene fan, then grab a Grande Rosas. After all, Milenar Residences will have 35 floors, with 340 units of one to three bedrooms each. The awesome "big guns" have cool private plunge pools—a first in a Makati condo. The Nerissa Home is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, darlings.

Viewing by appointment only (call 8021-1139/41 or 0917-5935274, or check out www.thenerissahomeresidences.com.ph.

GERRY de Guzman, Camille Reynoso and Ramon San Agustin

ELLACSON

LEAH Bautista, Roberto Cajucom, Connie Jimenez Aquino and Joe Lee

PABLO Gaudiard

ANTONI Mendoza and Andrew Gan

LENI de Guzman

LIZA Marcos and Marisa Cojuangco

DENISE and Jason Dino

GORGEOUS hostess Nerissa Guevarra and Nia Bautista

MADHURI and Jitender Gurnani, Ramesh Gurnani and Sonny Mendiola

Makati Med treats HMO partners to party

Hosting hors d'oeuvre and drinks, symbolic and songs to mark the Chinese New Year at the Makati Medical Center, salads treated its loyal HMO partners to a party of sorts.

Top executives of the country's leading HMO companies gathered at the eighth-floor auditorium of Towers 2, where they were welcomed by Makati Med president and CEO Rene Hontanosas.

"We would like to thank all of you for your contributions to the hospital's performance in 2010," Montanosas told the guests. "We are also proud of our ongoing efforts to facilitate HMO transactions at the hospital."

Earlier, Makati Med opened a business center outlets to promote for the care of its client partners.

PEPPER Tankenken, Patricia Reyes and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

PETER Dungavan, BIEBE ambs, Steve Kerkghoff and Gheri Lara

MAXICARE Healthcare Corp.'s Primary Care Center Makati supervisor Vanessa Amor and MVP for Sports Jamie Medina; Makati Med's patient relations head Dr. Iris Nidia; MVP for Sales Division Planning and Development Beth Acosta and VP for GMO Dina Perlas; Maxicare Healthcare Corp.'s assistant manager for Providers Carolben Flores and president Jose Pastor Perez; Makati Med's VP for Finance Bona Bautista

COCOLIFE Healthcare SVP for Healthcare Division Ma Magpayo; Makati Med's physician relationship manager Eh Cinpoc; and corporate liaisons officer Vanessa Bonzalia; Cocolife Healthcare VP for Health Care Division Mercedes Sandoval

MAKATI Med VP Dr. Manuel Fernandez (center); Health Maintenance Inc. Manager Jocelyn Bolivar; medical director Dr. Pilar Abion

CENTURY Properties EVP Carlo Antonio with his mom Ana Bonifacio Cat Arambulo

ALVIN Aseron and Century Properties creative director GP Reyes

HEAVYWEIGHTS at the opening of the Milano Residences showroom. Century Properties chairman, widowed by Jose F.B. Antonio, and wife Hilda Reyes Antonio; Italian ambassador Lina Ferrari; Versace Group CEO Gian Giacomo Fortunic; Century Properties managing director Robbie Antonio; and Versace homeowner Gabriela Tanseco

MERCARE Philippines Inc. SVP for Operations Dr. Zorch Reyes and Make Life and General Assurance Corporation medical director Dr. Nonie Leonardo

MAKATI Med president and CEO Rene Montenegro

ETTENG in blue, Singapore Bay Sue and Richard Pugdaoyao at

BIN CECILIO, Makati Sonia and Peter Dato

CHITO Antonio, Spencer Ngai and Sia Leong Kim

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HEARD

OTTAWA—Grammy winning Canadian singer Nelly Furtado in a Twitter message: "In 2007 I received $1 million from the Guilford clan to perform a 45 minute show for guests at a hotel in Oslo. "I am going to donate the money" (But did not reveal to whom the donation would be made. AFP

Fil-Am designers reveal drama behind red carpet gowns

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Noble

LOS ANGELES—After the last trophy in the awards season was handed out, veterans in Hollywood heaved a sigh of relief.

Now the Queen (a brand of mixtape-meister) has been, decorated by actresses in Hollywood Hills, and the rest shrewd by the actors to the darkest corners of their closets.

LA-based Filipina-American designers Oliver Tolentino and Carlyn Impala Galloway also exhaled, fulfilled but sleepless, and very tired from all the drama and panic that came with making outfits for the series of awards shows, from the Golden Globes in January to last Sunday's Academy Awards. It all sounds glamorous but the people admiring the gowns and tuxedos don't see the high-stakes suspense and tension that accompany the task of making ensembles for the red carpet.

Carlyn of Bespoke by Thumbelina (www.thumbelinabespoke.com) had been working on the Oscar outfit of Gene Chaffin, one of the producers of the best picture contender "The Social Network," and the much-awaited "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." The designer shared the challenge that Gene, who was also a producer of Brad Pitt's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," suddenly gave her a few days before the Academy Awards. For Gene, Carlyn had finished what she described as "a two-piece ensemble, a lined formal evening jacket in silk brocade with jeweled buttons and floor length silk chiffon draped skirt."

"Gene had been on the set of Dragon Tattoo' all day and night and I had to be on call for her fitting," she said. "I thought the outfit was all ready to go (as Gil Cates decided' that she no longer wants to wear an evening jacket and wants something one-piece instead. Gene

FS, LIFE 11

CARLYN Manila Calloway and the Oscar gown she designed for Gene Chaffin, producer of "The Social Network"

GIGI Demure stands out in an Oliver Tolentino gown on the Oscar red carpet.

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Fil-Am designers reveal drama behind red carpet gowns

Previous p1

...ure the skirt and bread it so much that she asked if I could make the skirt into an evening gown instead. So it was back to square one for me. I had to create a completely new gown for her in 48 hours."

Making the cut

Carlyn, who she designs bridal gowns and mermaid-like tube Julia Roberts' fit-for her 2001 wedding), added, "It got a bit crazy but I felt good about the challenge. I had faith that if it was meant to be, the dress was going to make the cut."

"I was going to know only two days ago if Czin decided to wear my gown," Carlyn said. She recalled the suspense. "I was up-again-covered big name designers—oh dear God!"

Carlyn described what she made in 48 hours: "Is hooping with Czin's intermittent nondivas, we Hollywood an empire waist silhouette floor length gown with a tank silk charmeuse underlining and contrasting black silk chiffon overlay. Czin requested no headwork, so we added a thin mesh silk band at the empire waist in the gown's only embellishment."

She asserted, "Until a final fitting with Czin in the evening, between shooting scenes of 'Tangled: Tutors.' The gown was perfect. Wasn't it—going to do? Boy it at noon the following day in her home. Unless something out of this world happened, I thought the gown was lovely and simple, helping a product to cinderella. So I was fine...so we knew that for the actresses instead."

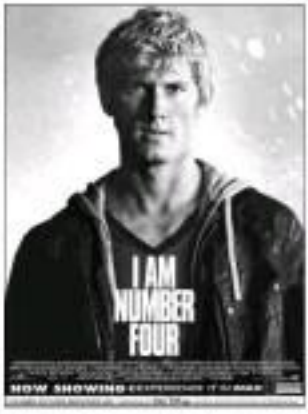
Last Sunday, Carlyn was thrilled. Czin arrived with her partner, true director romance David Fincher (for "Social...") on the Oscar red carpet wearing her (Carlyn's) gown!

Last minutes changes

Andrew Gauthier, the host-man advisor of Oliver, knows Dana expresses the assertion-...ntly dressing up celebs for the red carpet. "A high profile red carpet appearance was set to have Oliver for Ms. Dreams," Andrew revealed. "She even had a phone sent by the stylist of the nominee in Oliver's gown. The stylist confirmed that her client was wearing the gown so we felt comfortable letting you this exclusively know ahead of its release. But at the last minute, the nominee changed her mind. He based not only because we saw her at the event on TV in a gown with a different color, but can imagine the consequences if you had turned in your entry."

Andrew avowed: "Even when we think Dad convince is likely to wear something by Oliver, it's still just a 50/50 chance that the outfit will be worn. So we avoid announcing before an event that we said so.

BL, AM E4



Fil-Am designers reveal drama behind red carpet gowns

View page E1

will wear. Oliver, 8, only sees us up for public humiliation if the outfit is over-the-top. Oftentimes, the reasons that a gown was not worn have nothing to do with fashion."

He continued: "On the other hand, it would be easy for a designer to choke before/final to be dressing someone in order to monopolize all the press coverage potential. If the women ends up not wearing his gown and no one notices that, the designer will get zero credit. We don't think anyone would do that, but there's potential for that."

Oliver (www.oliverhemandez.com) disclosed that during last minute preparations that went into the making of the Golden Globe gown of Oliver's **Andrea Riley**, Heather's stylist came to my Makati store Boutique about two days before the Golden Globes because they still had not found the right dress," he recounted. "Heather had lots of gowns from designers to pick from but she just didn't feel like she had the right one yet. The stylist loved my clothes and sent photos to Heather via her cell phone. She said she liked everything he saw. They asked me to make a gown in her size and I had Andrea approve the fabric. I designed the gown and we made it in 24 hours. She tried it on for fit."

Final fitting

Oliver continued, "Because of the little time remaining, I went with the stylist to Amber's house on the morning of the Globes to do the final fitting. Twenty-four hours after I designed the gown, Amber was wearing it on the red carpet. As they say, the rest is history. It was the first time that Andrea ever made it to the best dressed lists, including that of *Jessa Rhianna*."

He stressed, "There's no guarantee that your gown will be worn until you see it personally step out of the limo in your gown. Anything can happen on the day of the event—a spouse walks in, looks at the dress and he makes a face. You can be sure she won't be wearing that dress."

> 'Anything can happen on the day of the event—the spouse walks in, looks at the dress and makes a face. You can be sure she won't be wearing that dress'

Oliver brought up an interesting point: "Believe it or not, a women may be blessed on the day of the event and she can no longer fit in what is usually a very tight gown," he said. "The bloating is a real occurrence. A dress I made was going to be worn by [former] First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. But the person was unable to zipper up because of the monthly period, [laugh] forgot that celebrities experience more of the same stress-related emotions that everyone else does. The fact that my creation wasn't worn had zero to do with fashion."

He cited some of the reasons: "It could be some pre-set gown and after 20 minutes in, it may feel something so constrictable about it. Or her child may run up to her and his sticky greased hair or and jelly fingers leave marks on the gown. Or the child's collar or it inhibits the time. There's the end of that gown."

Any one of these factors could explain why a talent switches gowns at the last minute. But, Oliver said, "It may mean that a personality wanted the designer's gown and picked someone else's" even if that was not the case.

"You almost never hear any actress or celebrity say before an event that she's wearing the designer or that she's considering various designers before an event," he said. "Based on demand it's not fair to the designers and, of course, they also want the option to change their mind at the last minute."

Dressing two Fil-Ams

Oliver disclosed how he came to dress up two Filipino-Americans at the Oscars—Maribeth "Molly" Libarios, who was a hair coordinator/stylist nominee for "Black Swan" and Gigi Bermudez, a producer of Zero for Conduct/Matthew's best live action short winners, "Godson Love."

"Gigi and Molly were introduced to me a week before," Oliver said. "In the end, super model. I had plenty of time and it wasn't too hectic," he quipped with a smile over what is obviously little time to come up with ensembles. "I had two fittings with both of them. I did some finishing touches to Gigi's gown the day before. Gigi came from New York and, coincidentally was staying at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills, which is a five-minute drive to my boutique. She dropped off her gown the night before at the hotel as the way home from the boutique.

FIT FOR A NOMINEE! Oscar nominated cinematographer Matthew Libarios (right) tries on the tuxedo that designer Oliver Tolentino made for him.

"On the day of the Oscars, I got someone (**Real discover**) to do Gigi's hair and makeup. I offered to stop by her hotel to say bye up to the door since her husband had to fly back to New York that morning. I like being a part of someone's special day. I've always enjoyed that about weddings, too."

Many on other hand, was coy about who he was working for until Sunday evening when he graciously returned our call for an interview about just winning the best cinematography prize at the Independent Spirit Awards. He wouldn't confirm that he was wearing the tux reportedly made by Oliver for him. But he hinted that yes, he might wear something with a touch of the Philippines and of the Filipinos in him.

On Sunday afternoon, Oliver was pleased to receive a call from Matty, telling him he was already in his tux and was heading to the Oscars. He also super relayed the sentiments of Cardoso, who exclaimed, "Finally, I am going to get some sleep tonight. Thank you, Sir [per Dior]!"

E-mail the columnist at *rmquilet_2000@yahoo.com*.

PG-13 OPENS TODAY

"GLEE"-Actress Riley wears Oliver Tolentino to the 2011 Golden Globes

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ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars
Editor Brenda G. Velarde

HEARD

VANESSA Rodgers, 12, former teen sweetheart ("High School Musical"): "I want to stay young as long as I can and take advantage of being able to play [young] characters, rather than trying to grow up too fast."

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Wanlu in a million

Ventriloquist shares pad with over a dozen dummies, et. figures

By Rayzel Sol Clings Jr.
Photos by Rony Hernandez

VAN often carries an enviable dressing room on road trips

IT'S HUGE for a nice living with a secret despair.

After turning off the lights, Wanlu would sometimes say good night to his half-asleep family by using one of his many voices. And he blabs.

Wanlu, a Hall of Famer from week eliminated on the TV5 show "Celebrating Pinoy," shares his Antipolo townhouse with partner Debbie, two young children—Gabby and Elijah—and over 20 puppets.

He makes it a point to practice his craft every day. "Doing at least two characters at a time."

He calls his act "VOICE famous," a combination of ventriloquism and magic tricks. He learned not as a magician in 1988 and only learned ventriloquism [with] the help of books, CDs and the Internet a few years ago.

A dentistry undergraduate, Wanlu [first] Jumbo Lomanta] used to work in a fast-food joint owned by a magician, Ing Fernandez.

"Master Ing taught me magic and later, another friend, Bonh the Clown, encouraged me to turn pro," he said.

The walls of his home are decorated with vintage posters of legendary magicians like Harry Houdini and Howard Thurston. Strewn all over the place are various puppet toys as well: Miss Piggy, Kermit the Frog, Grandpa Elmo, Chucky and Lamby.

When he joined "Talentadas" in 2009, he was still a swing kid, newcomer and built up his repertoire by acquiring various figures online. "I got secondhand puppets on eBay," he said.

Avatar figures can be quite pricey. "I once owned a Theodore Mack original that [cost] [illegible]."

He GAVE his marionettes to his sons, except for [illegible].

HOME BODY

WANLU took like a little boy again, surrounded by toys in the figures' bedroom.

BABOY-Clad PeteMan figure is proudly Philippine-made

HALL of Famer trophy from "Celebrating Pinoy"

The head of the Manny Pacquiao figure was made by a local tenacre maker. I just sent it to my supplier abroad so that the internal mechanisms could be installed," he said.

The Pacquiao figure is called PekMan. "Now a conversation, 'Pekman versus Superman' is [unclear] Tagalog in his ear," Wanlu said.

The star among his figures is Nicole, the mischievous little boy.

Recently, he added a playmate for Nicole, a little girl called Nikaki.

Other nominees in Wanlu's shows are Graham the Indian Kenyan teller, Lola Gina the granny, Ina from the 1950s, Kap the barangay captain of Tabalo, Congressman Dominador [illegible] Con Dome, Mang Kaloy the [illegible], Anthony the drifter, [illegible].

LO-SWING is in demand for Chinese New Year shows.

NICOLAS miniature puppet, Lolo Oliver.

MIGHTY Hiram is the star of Wanlu's show.

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HOROSCOPE — BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Before attempt reasons, your heavy driving desire now. Expert invest in touch without to earn award or your social life. Give yourself a pleasant to do this.
TAURUS (April 21 to May 20) Are you pleased with the way you find your relationship with a particular person? If you want to learn more friends in your life, or friends.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is the perfect day to plan escapes or your life directions in general. The New Moon will help you make resolutions about relief and comfort.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is the perfect day to set yourself other further helping in education you could get that would enhance your life or improve your job skills. What would you like to learn?
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today's New Moon is the best day all year for you to think about how to deepen private details about your finances, inheritances, wills, and purchases. Just do it.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Now is the best day all year to improve your domestic relationships, friendships and partnerships? Do this day to think about this.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is the best day all year for you to think about how you can improve your health, and also what you can do to improve your job. Why not think of something?
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The New Moon today is your opportunity to think about how to balance the amount of play and work in your life. Too much of one or the other is not wise.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is the ideal day for you to think about how you can improve your home. Now you can improve family relationships.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your communications with others is very important. Today you might think about how you can improve your communication, especially with siblings, neighbors and relatives.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This New Moon today urges you to think about your conversations, your learning and your travels. What can you do to improve in these?
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Take a realistic look at the future and ask yourself how you can improve your things in the world. After all, you have got a second chance to make a first impression.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Steve Moore

					6			
	4		5				7	
5		9				2		1
7							9	
			4	2	9			
	8							5
8		1				5		2
	6				7		8	
			3					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HAVING lunch with son Elijah and partner Bubbles, while Santiago the parrot looks on

Wanlu in a million

To see page F1

Santiago the parrot, Tecnico the automotive monkey, Geri the zebra, La-Tenng the Shaitoon twins, and Lowan (who was cute as a stinkbomb-poisoned puppet on TV5's "Walang Hiya Ed").

He said that La-Tyang was in demand at mall shows during the Chinese New Year celebration last month. Nicole has his own puppet, Lolo Dhon, a miniature figure that's only a few inches.

XAP's Bo barangay captain of Tahiti.

He also has several marionettes: Elvis, Michael Jackson, the juggler, the belly dancer, the rollerblader, and the Egyptian mummy.

Wanlu has passed on his marionettes to Martin and Ivan, grown-up sons from a previous marriage, who recently joined the second season of the ABS-CBN reality search "Pilipinas Got Talent."

The ventriloquist, who has converted the TV music into the figures' own "kwentuhan," finds life a little less lonely, surrounded by toys in the room.

He has a van that often serves as a mobile dressing room for quick road trips, but he scoffed at having hardcore to check in his figures when he traveled by plane.

"Dinto, Nicole and Gin Gin, in their cases, had to go through the X-ray machine at the airport," he recalled.

A convinced official panicked.

"I explained that it was a boy and an old man," he quipped.

Only then did the officer realize that he's Pearlie.

"When I first joined 'Eatwise do,' some fans couldn't even spell or pronounce ventriloquism. They thought I was just lip-synching prerecorded spiels," he recounted. "Now, even the tube crusher in my neighborhood knows what ventriloquism is all about."

WANLU, with food fight Agustilla, made his kids proud when he won on "Eatwise do."

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
2: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
3: WHO'S THAT GIRL
4: NEVER LET ME GO
5: JUST GO WITH IT
6: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
7: FASTER

GREENHILLS 1

1: WHO'S THAT GIRL
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

GREENBELT 3

1: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
3: NEVER LET ME GO
4: UNKNOWN
5: FASTER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: FASTER
2: I AM NUMBER FOUR (2D)
3: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
4: UNKNOWN
5: WHO'S THAT GIRL

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: RESERVED
2: FASTER
3: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
4: WHO'S THAT GIRL

MARQUEE

1: I AM NUMBER FOUR
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
3: FASTER
4: WHO'S THAT GIRL

MARKET! MARKET!

1: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
2: FASTER
3: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: WHO'S THAT GIRL
7: I AM NUMBER FOUR

TRINOMA

1: WHO'S THAT GIRL
2: JUST GO WITH IT
3: I AM NUMBER FOUR (3D)
4: DRIVE ANGRY (3D)
5: BLACK SWAN / UNKNOWN
6: FASTER
7: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

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"The Best Movie of the Decade"

NEVER LET ME GO

★★★★

"MOVING & PROVOCATIVE"

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Peoples Champion and 1 Live at Glorietta!
March 25, 6:00 pm
Glorietta 5 Atrium

GREENBELT
Anderson Cooper 360 live from Fresh Channel present:
Mardy Vierra in Yokohama (2010 live tour)
March 5, Greenbelt 3 cafe (5:00 pm)

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Ayala Alabang Village Association
March 26, Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Bonifacio High Street Live and Concert Schedule!
March 19, Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Pinoy Idol Winners Live and Concert Schedule!
March 27, 10:00 am, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ayala Center Cebu Grand Activity Area
Competitive Ballroom Dance Championship
March 26, 4:00 pm - Activity Center

TRINOMA
Audition: Dream Team Live
March 2 & 9, Activity Center

MARQUEE
Business of the Production: On The Spot Drawing Contest
March 6, Activity Center

CINEMAS
Ayala Malls Cinemas Free Movie Schedules
Please call 757-7777 or log on to

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Ruffa happy as a single mom

By Maricel R. Cruz

RUFFA Gutierrez knows her daughters Lorin and Venice need a father figure, but the star she's not ready for a new relationship.

"I don't want to be with someone just so the girls will have a daddy. I think one of these days I will sit down and talk with them, make them understand our situation," Ruffa tells Inquirer Entertainment. "I'm not explained to them why their parents are not living in the same house."

In 2007, Ruffa ended her four-year marriage to Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas. She had a short-lived affair with actor John Lloyd Cruz in 2009. The actress-TV host insists she's currently single and clueless going on romance.

Just hanging out

"I have a lot of guy friends that I hang out with. If there's someone special, I will not hide him," she says. "Everyone is in search of the one man love that will make them happy. [But] if a relationship is not meant to, I'd rather be single."

She's proud to say that she's doing well as a single mom. "That's because Lorin and Venice are really good kids. We're lucky for the father figure in the house, like their Lolo Dodo (Eddie Gutierrez, her dad) and their uncles, although of course the girls know that's not who/how my dad and ..."

Ruffa is also glad to have patched things up with Kris Aquino. The two had a rift in 2009, shortly before Ruffa, who used to emcee ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Boxer" with Aquino and Boy Abunda, left the show and moved to TV5.

"We were, I think, both very emotional at the time. I was about to leave my home network, so I was depressed. I didn't know the way it or going through a difficult time ... she and Josiet (Sayo) weren't talking," Ruffa recalls.

Ruffa, Kris, comedian Ai-Ai de las Alas and actor Bingbong Crunos were the emcees of the concert on the last day of the recent celebration of the Edsa People Power Revolution 25th anniversary. Ruffa is thankful to singer Gigi Alcaraz, who organized the event.

Friends again

"I told my friends[,]" says Ruffa. "It was good to work with Kris again. Before the event, we bumped into each other more ... first in a bathroom at the Tanay Rizal concert. There's no reason not to mail the ally."

Ruffa is in the cast of TV5's new sitcom, "Mga Maghahanap Ng Jakluh," directed by Jon Red and premiering March 21.

She describes her character, Bibi G, as "a mix of Sheryl Cruz's character in "Tar Brell: Private Pauda," Brooke Shields in "Lipstick Jungle" and Lucy Liccio Gardenere Mella."

Mr. O's only weakness, the actress says, is her husband, Mr. A (Richard Gomez), a sensualista. Ruffa says, "My character is not like Annabelle Rama (her mom). If she's unmarried, I believed all of my husband's exwomen until I get my revenge."